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STAN LEE PRESENTS

# MARVEL AGE®

# SALICRUP'S SECTION

Welcome to the very first issue of MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE to be sold on newsstands everywhere! Now that may not seem to be a big deal to the loyal MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE followers who've been with us lo, these many years, but we're really excited! Up until now there were only two ways to pick up MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE every month, either at your comics specialty shop or by subscription, which left our many newsstand customers without a clue to what MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE was all about. Well, those days are over at last! MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE is here, and we're hoping to recruit as many newsstand Marvel Zombies as possible!

Just in case you're wondering what exactly is MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE, even if you're one of our long-time regulars and noticed the subtle change in our cover logo, here's the lowdown:

MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE is first and foremost *your* magazine! That's the main reason we're now calling ourselves the official Marvel FAN magazine. We truly exist to serve you. So you've got to tell us how we're doing! If you love us, let us know! If you hate us, let us know! You're not going to get what you want unless you speak up! We run three pages of your letters every issue, and we make sure to read every letter we receive. In fact, most of our regular departments were suggested by your letters.

MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE, in case you haven't guessed, is devoted entirely to Marvel comics. (Let the other companies start their own magazines, if they don't like it!) We try our best to give you all the latest information on all of Marvel's many comics, as well as special projects, TV shows, movies, toys, games, etc. In this issue we preview ROBOCOP, and even offer some of your feedback—a MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE first! Check out the preview and find out how you too can become a MARVEL AGE Reviewer, not to mention, details on how to enter our big HEROES OF THE '90s SWEEPSTAKES!

Every issue of MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE features columns by such favorites as executive editor and CAPTAIN AMERICA and QUASAR writer, Remarkable **Mark Gruenwald**, the man who destroyed the Marvel Universe and lived to tell about it, Fearless **Fred Hembeck**, and the man who virtually created the whole dang Marvel Universe by himself, Smilin' **Stan Lee**! There's also my column, but I strongly recommend skipping it every issue and diving right into the good stuff. Good stuff such as the Coming Attractions, Newswatch, the Marvel Top Ten, the Trivia Quiz, the Marvel Age of Comics (A year by year review), plus our many preview articles offering in-depth looks at our latest, greatest new titles!

We could go on and on, but we think you get the idea. We will mention that MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE won the COMICS BUYER'S GUIDE Fan Awards for Favorite Publication About Comics, just 'cause we can't resist bragging, but that's it! The rest is up to you! If you like this issue, let us know, and be sure to tell all your friends! If you didn't, tell us, and try not to mention it to anyone else! 'Nuff said!

*—Jim Salicrup*

## MARVEL AGENDA


| | |
|---|---|
| **Coming Attractions** | 1 |
| **Newswatch** | 8 |
| **Mark's Remarks** | 9 |
| **Mutant Report** | 10 |
| **Trivia Quiz** | 14 |
| **Stan's Soapbox** | 15 |
| **HEMBECK** | 16 |
| **Heroes for the 90's 'Say What?!' Sweepstakes** | 18 |
| **ROBOCOP Preview** | 19 |
| **Marvel Reviewers** | 24 |
| **The British Invasion** | 25 |
| **Marvel Age of Comics 1981 (Part 1)** | 28 |
| **Letters** | 30 |



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# MARVEL® COMING ATTRACTIONS

**Here's a complete checklist of what's happening in all the Marvel, Epic, and Marvel U.K. titles shipping in February.**

## Titles Shipping February 6
## On Sale February 27

☐ **AVENGERS WEST COAST** #57—You must not miss the searing consequences revealed in this chapter of the **Avengers'** war with the **Scarlet Witch** and **Magneto!** Written and penciled by **John Byrne** and inked by **Paul Ryan.** $1.00.

☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA** #369—The **Black Queen** and the **Hellfire Mercenaries** versus **Crossfire** and the **Skeleton Crew**—and **Cap** and **Diamondback** are caught in the middle! Written by **Mark Gruenwald**, penciled by **Kieron Dwyer**, and inked by **Danny Bulanadi.** $1.00.

☐ **DAREDEVIL** #279—**Daredevil** and the **Inhumans** seek the son of **Black Bolt.** And **Mephisto** and **Blackheart** seek to corrupt the soul of **Daredevil.** The question is who will succeed first—and the answer will surprise you! Written by **Ann Nocenti**, penciled by **John Romita, Jr.**, and inked by **Al Williamson.** $1.00.

A **Limited Series** is a title which will only run for a specific number of issues.

A **Graphic Novel** is an 8½" x 11" paperback edition.

A **Trade Paperback** is a 7" x 10" paperback edition.

A **Graphic Album** is a 6⅝" x 10" high quality, square-bound edition.

A **Direct Sales** title is available only at selected outlets.

**Shipping Date** refers to when the comics leave the printer.

☐ **STEELTOWN ROCKERS Limited Series** #1—A story of hope in a city without any! A tale of teens bucking the odds! This is the story of the **Steeltown Rockers**, a teenage rock band, based in Pittsburgh, risking everything for a shot at the big time! Written by **Elaine Lee** and drawn by **Steve Leialoha.** $1.00.

☐ **NAMOR THE SUB-MARINER** #1—A new on-going series! A new direction for a classic character! The **Sub-Mariner** invades the surface world in a totally different way! Written and penciled by **John Byrne** and inked by **Bob Wiacek.** $1.00.

☐ **WEB OF SPIDER-MAN** #63—**Spidey** learns that he has nothing to fear but **Mr. Fear,** as the villain uses **Betty Brant-Leeds** to lure the wall-crawler into a sinister trap. Plus **Nick Katzenberg** makes a shocking discovery about **Spider-Man!** Written by **Gerry Conway**, penciled by **Alex Saviuk**, and inked by **Keith Williams.** $1.00.

☐ **X-MEN** #260—**Dazzler** becomes the target of a fan who wants to love her to death! And **Forge** and **Banshee** hit the road on an astonishing adventure! Written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **Marc Silvestri**, and inked by **Dan Green.** $1.00.

☐ **MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS** #47—**Wolverine, Captain America, Devil Slayer,** and the **Arabian Knight!**

WOLVERINE Part X—The action-packed conclusion! Written by **Marv Wolfman** and drawn by **John Buscema.**

DEVIL SLAYER Part II—**Devil Slayer** embarks on a war that, if he wins, will cause him to lose his soul! Written by **Dwight Jon Zimmerman**, penciled by **Rod Ramos**, and inked by **Mark McKenna.**

And complete in this issue.

The **Arabian Knight** meets his gods . . . and discovers he doesn't like them! Written by **Scott Lobdell** and drawn by **Don Perlin.**

The battle ground is a hospital. The enemy is a band of terrorists. Only **Captain America** stands in the way of their goal. The action is awesome! Written by **Len Wein** and penciled by **Steve Buccellato.** Cover drawn by **John Byrne.** Biweekly. 32 pages. $1.25.

☐ **SHE-HULK** #14—"The Cosmic Squish Principle" Part 1 . . . and before it's over, the **She-Hulk**'s life will be destroyed! Guest-starring **Howard the Duck!** "A Baloney Place of Dying" is the first part of the four-part saga written by **Steve Gerber** and penciled by **Bryan Hitch.** Mando Offset paper. $1.50.

☐ **PUNISHER MAGAZINE** #9—Re-presenting from THE PUNISHER #s 12 and 13, "Castle Technique" and "Sacrifice Play" written by **Mike Baron**, penciled by **Whilce Portacio**, and inked by **Scott Williams.** New cover by **Jim Sherman.** A Marvel black and white magazine. 48 pages. $2.25.

☐ **CRITICAL MASS Limited Series** #4—Two tales of the Shadowline Saga!

**Dr. Zero** tries to find the murderer of the great scientists of Europe, and becomes the murderer's next target! Written by **D. G. Chichester** and **Margaret Clark** and drawn by **Mike Manley.**

The **Power Line** duo finally have their greatest enemy where they want him! But do they have the power to destroy him? Written by **D.G. Chichester** and **Margaret Clark** and drawn by **Gray Morrow.** An Epic Graphic Album. 64 pages. Direct Sales only. $4.95.

☐ **OPEN SPACE** #2—The shared-universe science-fiction anthology series featuring all-new tales by award-winning science-fiction writers.

A mercenary peacekeeping force takes on interstellar piracy—and uncovers corporate treachery in "The Armada Operation." Written by **S.N. Lewitt**, penciled by **Peter Ledger**, and inked by **Andy Mushynsky.**

A mineral survey team encounters a strange form of alien life in "Biosphere." Written by **F. Paul Wilson** and drawn by **John Ridgway.**

A New York cop has to find a way to stop a new, extraterrestrial drug—that isn't illegal yet in "Bottom Line." Written by **Lawrence Watt-Evans**, penciled by **Tom Grummett**, and inked by **Art Viscardi.**

A secretary uncovers a corporate scandal and risks her life to expose it in "Policy." Written by **Charles deLint** and drawn by **Ray Lago.** 64 pages. A Marvel Graphic Album series. $4.95.

☐ **WHAT THE—?!** #7—The series where we poke fun at ourselves returns! The **Revengers** versus **Just-A-League** written by **Scott Lobdell** and penciled by **Rurik Tyler! Awful Flight** written by **Jeff Albrecht. Heck-Cat** written and drawn by **Richard Howell.** And more fake ads and one-page parodies! 32 pages. $1.25.

## Titles Shipping February 13 On Sale March 6

☐ **AVENGERS SPOTLIGHT** #31—Two tales of the **Avengers** in solo action!

**Hawkeye**'s one-man war against L.A. street gangs heats up! Written by **Steve Gerber**, penciled by **Al Milgrom**, and inked by **Don Heck.**

**USAgent** tries to discover who is brutally killing illegal aliens crossing the US/Mexican border—and suffers the consequences! Written by **Fabian Nicieza**, penciled by **Dan Lawliss**, and inked by **Keith Williams.** $1.00.

☐ **ALF** #28—**Alf** loses his memory and believes that the **Tanners** are his real **Shumway** family! "Family Ties" is written by **Michael Gallagher**, penciled by **Dave Manak**, and inked by **Marie Severin.** $1.00.

☐ **THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN** #331—The conclusion of the two-part **Punisher/Spidey** saga! And **Mary Jane** confronts the **Black Cat!** Meanwhile—watch out for **Venom!** Written by **David Michelinie**, penciled by **Erik Larsen**, and inked by **Mike Machlan.** $1.00.

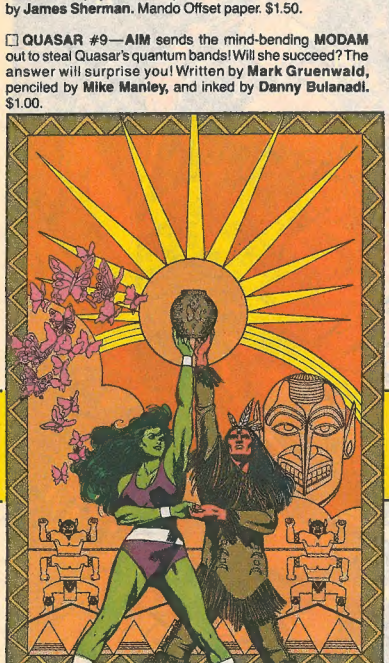
☐ **GROO THE WANDERER** #64—**Groo** becomes a Master of Fine Art when no one around has the courage to tell him how atrocious his painting actually is! Written and drawn by **Sergio Aragonés** and assisted by **Mark Evanier.** An Epic comic. $1.00.

☐ **HEATHCLIFF** #46—The richest mouse in the world takes over the **Nutmeg** house—and bribes **Heathcliff** to join him! Written by **Angelo DeCesare**, penciled by **Warren Kremer**, and inked by **Roberta Edelman.** $1.00

☐ **THE NEW MUTANTS** #88—The **New Mutants** meet their new mentor and teacher! Written by **Louise Simonson**, penciled by **Rob Liefeld**, and inked by **Bob Wiacek.** Cover penciled by **Rob Liefeld** and inked by **Todd McFarlane.** $1.00.

☐ **ALPHA FLIGHT** #83—**Talisman** seeks a sure-fire method to totally defeat the **Sorcerer.** But what price will she be forced to pay? Written by **James D. Hudnall** and drawn by **James Sherman.** Mando Offset paper. $1.50.

☐ **QUASAR** #9—**AIM** sends the mind-bending **MODAM** out to steal Quasar's quantum bands! Will she succeed? The answer will surprise you! Written by **Mark Gruenwald,** penciled by **Mike Manley,** and inked by **Danny Bulanadi.** $1.00.



☐ **THE SAGA OF THE HUMAN TORCH** Limited Series #1— At last! The complete story of the original **Human Torch**, told in the format of the SAGA OF THE SUB-MARINER. Writer **Roy Thomas** traces the 50-year history of the **Torch**, from his creation in the 1940s, to his entombment, to his shocking present! Penciled by **Rich Buckler**, and inked by **Danny Bulanadi.** Mando Offset paper. $1.50.

☐ **WOLVERINE** #23—The horrifying fate of **Geist!** And much, *much* more in the dramatic conclusion of this six-part epic! Written by **Archie Goodwin**, penciled by **John Byrne**, and inked by **Klaus Janson.** Mando Offset paper. $1.50.

☐ **INTERFACE** #3—As if they didn't already have enough problems—now the **ESPers** must fight off vengeance-minded members of the mob! Written by **James D. Hudnall** and illustrated by **Paul Johnson.** An Epic comic. Hudson Offset paper. Direct Sales only. $1.95.

☐ **SHE-HULK: CEREMONY** #1—**Wyatt Wingfoot** and the **She-Hulk** get engaged! And the **She-Hulk** must stop a madman attempting a mystical world-conquest! Written by **Dwayne McDuffie**, penciled by **June Brigman**, and inked by **Stan Drake.** Graphic Album Format. 48 pages. Fully painted. Direct Sales. $3.95.

☐ **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN** #172—On a death march through a fetid swamp, **Conan** and his captors become prey for little creatures with big appetites. Written by **Chuck Dixon**, penciled by **Mike Docherty**, and inked by **Ian Akin** and **Brian Garvey.** Plus tales of **King Kull, Valeria** and **Red Sonja** by **Alan Rowlands** and **Oui, John Arcudi** and **Javier Saltares**, and **Jim Valentino** with **Steve Carr** and **Joe Rubinstein.** And an **Ernie Chan** portfolio! A Marvel black and white magazine. 64 pages. For Mature Readers. $2.25.

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☐ **STRIP** #3—More fortnightly action from Marvel UK! Featuring adventure and humor from some of Britain's brightest!

MARSHAL LAW Part 3—Reprinting this already classic Epic Comics Limited Series in chronological order! Written by **Pat Mills** and drawn by **Kevin O'Neill.**

CHRONICLES OF GENGHIS GRIMTOAD—More tales of funny animals, set in the Middle Ages! Written by **John Wagner** and **Alan Grant**, and drawn by **Ian Gibson.**

THE MAN FROM CANCER Part 3—**Crusht Acean** is back! He's the deep-sea mollusk detective! Written by **Glen Dakin** and drawn by **Phil Elliot.** A Marvel UK comic. 48 pages. Direct sales only. Mature Readers. $2.75.

☐ **PLASTIC FORKS** #1—What happens when a scientist discovers a way to make cloning easy? Nothing good as the inventor discovers when his invention is used on him! His quest to stop the conspiracy-minded thieves and retrieve his invention makes this one of the wildest suspense tales yet! Written and drawn by **Ted McKeever.** An Epic Graphic Album Limited Series. 64 pages. Direct Sales only. Mature Readers. $4.95.

☐ **THE X-MEN Trade Paperback**—Re-presenting from THE UNCANNY X-MEN #168-176 the devastating **Madelyne Pryor** saga! Re-live **Madelyne's** romance with **Cyclops**, the revenge of **Master-Mind**, and **Kitty Pryde's** rookie year with the **X-Men!** Written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **Paul Smith**, and inked by **Bob Wiacek.** 224 pages. Direct Sales only. $14.95.

## Titles Shipping February 20 On Sale March 13

☐ **THE AVENGERS** #316—Featuring **Nebula**, the **Stranger** and a surprising guest-star in a story where the existence of the very universe itself hangs in the balance! Written by **John Byrne**, penciled by **Paul Ryan**, and inked by **Tom Palmer.** $1.00.

☐ **CONAN THE BARBARIAN** #231—The thrilling conclusion to "The Burning Tower." **Conan** seeks revenge on **Karmanthes**, the man who hired and betrayed him. But someone else wants revenge on **Karmanthes**, too, so it becomes a race to see who gets to kill him first. And both participants are willing to kill each other to get the job done. Written by **Gerry Conway**, penciled by **Frank Springer**, and inked by **Don Perlin.** $1.00.

☐ **G.I. JOE** #99—SEE: The return of the original **Cobra Commander!** WITNESS: The daring escape of **Zartan** and his evil cohorts! OBSERVE: As **Zarana** reveals her plans for the brainwashed **Clutch** and **Rock and Roll!** And THRILL TO the plight of two teen-aged girls as they stumble across the **Joes'** secret HQ! Face it, effendi—this one has it all! Written by **Larry Hama**, and penciled and inked by **Herb Trimpe.** $1.00.

☐ **THE INCREDIBLE HULK** #368—**Bruce Banner** begins his hunt for his wife, **Betty**, and runs smack dab into—**Mr. Hyde!** Written by **Peter David**, penciled by **Sam Keith**, and inked by **Sam Keith** and **Kelley Jones.** $1.00

☐ **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE** #87—Exclusive preview of the new GHOST RIDER series! CAMP CANDY! And the HERO Limited Series! Plus: **Stan's** Soapbox, **Mark's** Remarks, **Hembeck's** Page, and all our other regular features. $1.00.

☐ **MARVEL TALES** #236—Re-presenting from MARVEL TEAM-UP ANNUAL #1 the dramatic conclusion to "The Lords of Light and Darkness." Written by **Bill Mantlo** penciled by **Sal Buscema** and inked by **Mike Esposito.** Plus an all-new chapter of "**Petey**"—the life of **Peter Parker** before he became **Spider-Man.** Written and drawn by **Fred Hembeck.** $1.00.

☐ **POLICE ACADEMY** #8—Ghosts are stealing the treasures from the museum. When the **Police Academy** crew is assigned to guard the museum's most valuable work, the result is a hauntingly good time for everyone—except the **Police Academy** cops! Written by **Angelo DeCesare**, penciled by **Howard Post**, and inked by **Jacqueline Roettcher.** $1.00.

☐ **THE PUNISHER** #32—The Punisher risks sacrificing his code of honor in order to destroy a drug-running biker gang in the conclusion of "Speedy Recovery." Written by **Mike Baron**, penciled by **Bill Reinhold**, and inked by **Mark Farmer.** $1.00.

☐ **SILVER SURFER** #36—Now here's an adventure! It's got **Thanos**, the **Silver Surfer, Captain America, She-Hulk**, the **Impossible Man, Warlock**, and **Captain Marvel.** And it's got revelations galore! Written by **Jim Starlin**, penciled by **Ron Lim**, and inked by **Tom Christopher.** $1.00.

☐ **MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS** #48—**Wolverine, Storm** and **Dr. Doom, Devil Slayer**, and the **Wasp!**

WOLVERINE Part 1—**Wolverine and Spider-Man** team up! And wait'll you see who they have to fight! Written and drawn by **Erik Larsen.**

DEVIL SLAYER Part III—The **Flying Dutchman** wins! Written by **Dwight Jon Zimmerman**, penciled by **Rod Ramos**, and inked by **Mark McKenna.**

Plus complete in this issue:

**Dr. Doom** tries to save Latveria from industrial polluters—and **Storm** tries to stop him! Written by **Dwight Jon Zimmerman**, penciled by **Rod Ramos**, and inked by **Chris Ivy.**

The **Wasp** discovers the fatal price of fame! Written by **Marc McLauren** and drawn by **Erik Shanower.** 32 pages. Biweekly. $1.25.

☐ **WHAT IF . . . ?** #12—"What If the **X-Men** Had Stayed in Asgard?"

See **Storm**, the goddess of thunder! See **Cannonball** lead the Troll army! See **Sunspot** battle **Hela!** Bonus: **Thor** the frog! Written and penciled by **Jim Valentino** and drawn by **Sam de la Rosa.** 32 pages. $1.25.

☐ **EXCALIBUR** #21—**Chris Wozniak** debuts as the new regular penciler! And in the opening chapter of a two-part saga, **Excalibur** finds itself trapped on a world where **Captain America** is a terrorist, **Professor X** is a British secret agent, and the **Red Skull** is chief of the Imperial Prussian Secret Service! Written by **Chris Claremont.** Mando Offset paper. $1.50.

☐ **INHUMANS** #1—The untold story of the uncanny **Inhumans** just before they met the **Fantastic Four!** Written by **Lou Mougen**, penciled by **Richard Howell**, and inked by **Vince Colletta.** 48 pages. $1.50.

☐ **ROBOCOP** #2—**Robocop** battles **NixCo's** merciless cyborg **NixCops**—and loses! Written by **Alan Grant**, penciled by **Lee Sullivan**, and inked by **Kim DeMulder.** $1.50.

☐ **SHIELD** #10—It's the brutal conclusion to the **Chaos Serpent** Saga! If **Leviathan** succeeds, it could mean World War III! Guest-starring **Captain America!** Penciled by **Keith Pollard**, and inked by **Kim DeMulder.** Mando Offset paper. $1.50.

☐ **NIGHTBREED** #1—The gripping adaptation of **Clive Barker**'s newest movie begins! Desperately fleeing for his life, **Aaron Boone** discovers the mysterious city of Midian—and its deadly inhabitants—the **Nightbreed! Written by Alan Grant** and illustrated by **John Wagner** and **Jim Baikie.** An Epic comic. Flambeau Offset paper. Direct Sales only. $1.95.

☐ **THE DESTROYER** #7—"The Jello Bomb." Terrorists get ahold of a jello bomb and threaten all of the United States' national monuments. The bomb actually has the ability to turn stone into jello. It's up to **Remo** and **Chiun** to foil this dastardly plot. Written by **Will Murray**, penciled by **Rik Levins**,and inked by **Chris Ivy.** A Marvel black and white magazine. 48 pages. $2.25.

☐ **DOCTOR WHO MAGAZINE** #158—The **Doctor** tracks the troubles on the planet Catalog to its source—inside the vast trans-dimensional library! Written by **Dan Abnett** and drawn by **John Ridgway.** Plus: interviews with DOCTOR WHO TV script writer **Bill Strutton** and actors **Frank Windsor** and **James Ellis.** And more! A Marvel UK magazine. 64 pages. Direct Sales only. $2.95.

☐ **FANTASY ZONE** #6—The latest film and TV news from the world of Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Horror as presented by Marvel UK. Director **Terry Gilliam** interviewed, backstage for the make-up on **Clive Barker**'s NIGHTBREED, and behind the scenes of **Jim Henson**'s creature Work Shop; a preview of GREMLINS II, and more! 64 pages. A Marvel UK magazine. Direct Sales only. $2.95.

☐ **STREET POET RAY** #1—Think comics are all the same? Think again! **Street Poet Ray** has created an all-new form of illustrated poetry—it's like a cross between rap music and haiku and it's all based on life on the streets! You've never seen anything like STREET POET RAY—guaranteed! Written by **Street Poet Ray** and drawn by **Junco.** A Marvel Graphic Album black and white series. 32 pages. Direct Sales only. $2.95.

## Titles Shipping February 27 On Sale March 20

☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR** #339—It's the awesome conclusion to the Time Bubble Saga! Have the FF penetrated the time bubble? You may think you know the answer—but you'll never know for sure until you see what happens on the last page! Written and drawn by **Walter Simonson.** $1.00.

☐ **IRON MAN** 255—It's final exam time for the new **Spymaster.** And to pass the test, he must defeat **Iron Man!** Written and drawn by **Bob Layton.** $1.00.

☐ **SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN** #163—**Spidey** confronts the demonic **Hobgoblin! Carrion** confronts his mother! **J. Jonah Jameson** starts up his new news magazine! Written by **Gerry Conway** and drawn by **Sal Buscema.**

☐ **TRANSFORMERS** #65—It's the penultimate chapter of the Matrix Quest Saga! The **Creation Matrix** has been found! The problem is, it's created the perfect killing machine to defend it! Written by **Simon Furman** and drawn by **Geoff Senior.** Cover drawn by **Bill Sienkiewicz. $1.00.**

☐ **THOR** #416—**Hercules** falls victim to a cosmic vampire! **Eric Masterson** struggles to keep custody of his son. Where's **Thor?** That's what *every one* wants to know! Written by **Tom DeFalco,** penciled by **Ron Frenz**, and inked by **Joe Sinnott.** Plus in Tales of Asgard: **Leir** plots to kidnap **Sif!** $1.00.

☐ **X-FACTOR** #53—**Caliban** takes on **Angel** and **X-Factor!** And it's a battle that does *not* have a happy ending! Written by **Louise Simonson**, penciled by **Terry Shoemaker**, and inked by **Al Milgrom.** $1.00.

☐ **CLASSIC X-MEN** #46—Re-presenting from X-MEN #140 **Wolverine** and **Nightcrawler**'s incredible battle against **Wendigo!** Written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **John Byrne**, and inked by **Terry Austin.**

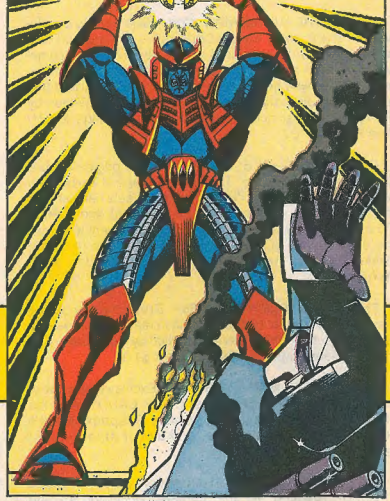
☐ **ALIEN LEGION** #16—**Grimrod** and his father decide to settle their differences. But doing so could devastate their sector of the galaxy! Written by **Chuck Dixon**, penciled by **Larry Stroman**, and inked by **Mark Farmer.** An Epic comic. Mando Offset paper. $1.50.

☐ **CLOAK AND DAGGER** #17—A **Morlock** is stalking the subways for victims. Now he has a new target—**Dagger!** Written by **Terry Austin** and drawn by **Mike Vosburg.** Mando Offset paper. $1.50.

☐ **DR. STRANGE** #16—The thrilling conclusion to "The Vampiric Verses!" Featuring **Doc**, his brother **Vic, Marie LeVeau,** and **Morbius** vs. a horde of zombies! Written by **Roy** and **Dann Thomas**, penciled and inked by **Jackson Guice.** Mando Offset paper. $1.50.

☐ **MOON KNIGHT** #13—**Moon Knight** becomes a rebel leader in an attempt to destroy the **Bushman.** And **Arsenal** is out to kill both **Bushman** and **Moon Knight!** "Brush Fire" is the second part of a four-part saga written by **Chuck Dixon,** penciled by **Sal Velluto**, and inked by **Tom Palmer.** Mando Offset paper. $1.50.

☐ **THE 'NAM** #43—An ex-football hero becomes everything he despises when he confronts combat in the jungles of Vietnam. Written by **Doug Murray** and penciled by **Wayne Vansant.** Mando Offset paper. $1.50.



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☐ **POWER PACK** #55—Someone or *something* is haunting the apartment building of the **Power** family. **Power Pack** tries to discover the answer and confronts a surprising super-villain! Written by **Dwayne McDuffie**, penciled by **Steve Buccellato**, and inked by **Dan Spiegle.** Mando Offset paper. $1.50.

☐ **PUNISHER WAR JOURNAL** #17—Part two of the Hawaiian Homicide Trilogy. The **Punisher's** friend, **Micro** chip, sets out to kill the men who have been murdering his friends. And the **Punisher embarks on a rescue mission that will ultimately end in blood! Written by Carl Potts,** penciled by **Jim Lee**, and inked by **Al Milgrom.** Mando Offset paper. $1.50.

☐ **MARVEL FANFARE** #50—A mother's desire to protect her mutant child could spell death for **Angel** and **X-Factor** at the hands of **Arcade!** Written by **Jo Duffy**, penciled by **Joe Staton,** and inked by **Joe Rubinstein.** 32 pages. Hudson Offset paper. Direct Sales only. $2.25.

☐ **CONAN SAGA** #37—Re-presenting from SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #34 "Lair of the Ice Worm" written by **Roy Thomas**, penciled by **Carmine Infantino**, and inked by **Alfredo Alcala.** And from SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #6—"People of the Dark" written by **Roy Thomas**, and drawn by **Alex Nino.** A Marvel black and white magazine. 64 pages. For Mature Readers. $2.25.

☐ **STRIP** #4—Four tales of incredible adventure!

MARSHAL LAW—**Marshal Law** faces his deadliest challenge yet! Written by **Pat Millis** and drawn by **Kevin O'Neill.**

THE CHRONICLES OF GENGHIS GRIMTOAD—**Genghis** must save the land of **Ranald the Protector**—but will he? Written by **Alan Grant** and **John Wagner** and drawn by **Ian Gibson.**

STORM: THE PIRATES OF PANDARVE—**Storm** and **Ember** are adventurers. But their latest adventure might find them dead before they can begin it! Written by **Martin Lodewijk** and drawn by **Don Lawrence.**

Plus a tale so wild, that if we revealed it to you here, we'd spoil all the fun! A Marvel UK comic. 48 pages. Direct Sales only. Mature Readers. $2.50.

☐ **SHE-HULK: CEREMONY** #2—The incredible conclusion! The secret of **She-Hulk's** love for **Wyatt** is revealed! The fate of their relationship! And the awesome battle between **She-Hulk** and the madman out to seize control of the world! Written by **Dwayne McDuffie**, penciled by **June Brigman**, and inked by **Frank Springer.** Fully-painted. 48 pages. Direct Sales. $3.95.

☐ **CONAN: "THE HORN OF AZOTH" Graphic Novel**—**Conan** inadvertantly causes the return of the ancient god, **Azoth.** Now he's got to find a way to get rid of him before mankind is destroyed! Written by **Roy Thomas** and **Gerry Conway**, penciled by **Mike Docherty**, inked by **Tony DeZuniga**, and painted by **Tom Vincent.** Cover by **Dorian.** 64 pages. Direct Sales only. $8.95.

☐ **STALKERS** #1—In the late 1990's mercenary franchises called **"Stalkers"** are the only hope in a terrorist-plagued America. If you like gritty action, this series is for you! Written by **Jan Strnad** and **Mark Verheiden** and drawn by **Mark Texeira.** Cover by **Paul Chadwick.** An Epic comic. Mando Offset paper. For Mature Readers. $1.50.

☐ **AKIRA** #18—Lives are shattered and absolute power is extended over more of Neo-Tokyo in one of the most suspense-filled chapters yet! Written and drawn by **Katsuhiro Otomo**, English language translation by **Jo Duffy**, with computerized coloring by **Steve Oliff.** An Epic Graphic Album series. 64 pages. Flambeau Offset paper. For Mature Readers. $3.95.

☐ **ABSLOM DAAK: DALEK KILLER** #1—The complete saga of the renegade who's sworn to destroy all **Daleks!** A must for DOCTOR WHO fans, and ayone who is an adventure addict! Written by **Steve Moore** and drawn by **Steve Dillon, Dave Lloyd,** and **Lee Sullivan.** A Marvel UK Trade Paperback. Direct Sales only. $8.95.

# SUPER-VILLAIN™ CHECKLIST

**AIM**—QUASAR #9
**Animator**—MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #48
**Arcade**—MARVEL FANFARE #50
**Arsenal**—MOON KNIGHT #13
**Beatrice, Carlton**—SHE-HULK: CEREMONY #s 1 & 2
**Blackheart**—DAREDEVIL #279
**Black Queen**—CAPTAIN AMERICA #369
**Black Shadow**—MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #47
**Bushman**—MOON KNIGHT #13
**Caliban**—X-FACTOR #53
**Carrion**—SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #163
**The Coven**—SHIELD #10
**Crossfire**—CAPTAIN AMERICA #369
**Dr. Doom**—MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #48
**Flying Dutchman**—MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #s 47 & 48
**Geist**—WOLVERINE #23
**Hammerhead**—SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #163
**Hela**—WHAT IF—? #12
**Hellfire Mercenaries**—CAPTAIN AMERICA #369
**Hobgoblin**—SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #163
**Mr. Hyde**—INCREDIBLE HULK #368
**Leir**—THOR #416
**Leviathan**—SHIELD #10
**Loki**—WHAT IF. . .? #12
**Magneto**—AVENGERS WEST COAST #57
**Mephisto**—DAREDEVIL #279
**Modam**—MODAM #9
**Mysterio**—POWER PACK #55
**Nebula**—AVENGERS #316
**Scarlet Witch**—AVENGERS WEST COAST #57
**Skeleton Crew**—CAPTAIN AMERICA #369
**Sorcerer**—ALPHA FLIGHT #83
**Spymaster**—IRON MAN #255
**Taskmaster**—IRON MAN #255
**Thanos**—SILVER SURFER #36
**Venom**—AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #331
**Wendigo**—CLASSIC X-MEN #46
**Xenophobic Man**—AVENGERS SPOTLIGHT #31

# NEWSWATCH

## RHAPSODIC RAMBLINGS ON RAMBUNCTIOUS RECORDINGS, AND HELPFUL HINTS FOR HALLOWED HANDBOOKS.

**ITEM:** Here's your chance to double your comic book fun—to hear the heroes and villains as they square off against each other, to listen to every whoosh, whump, and whack of battle, and to thrill to a stirring soundtrack of the comic book you're enjoying. What are we talking about, you ask? The new **Spider-Man** and **Captain America** adventures in the Audio Theater series! Music Publishing International and Shan-Lon Enterprises teamed up with Marvel to re-present three Spider-Man and three Captain America comics in this series that combines a special reprint of the original adventure with a dramatic audio-cassette version of the story.

The stories in the series are from AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #303 and 319 and a special edition of AMAZING SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #23 that includes the tales "My Science Project," "Spider-Man's Uncanny Spider-Sense," and "Standards of Behavior" and an all-new cover drawn by **Alex Saviuk.** The Captain America adventures are from CAPTAIN AMERICA #113, 255, and 326. And the Captain America series features the voice of writer/artist **John Byrne** as the narrator, President **Franklin Roosevelt**, and the **Red Skull!**

The audio cassettes were produced by **Jeff Zahn**, who also did the music score, and MPI Production Coordinator **Vickie Mayo.** Marvel consultants for all six stories were Spider-Man and MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE editor **Jim Salicrup** and Domestic Licensing Assistant Dwight Jon Zimmerman. Assisting on the Captain America recording session was Executive Editor and CAPTAIN AMERICA writer **Mark Gruenwald.**

The session went so well that we may be putting more comics on tape in the future. Soon you'll not only be able to read your favorite comics—you'll be able to hear them, as well!

Behind the scenes at the recording of one of the Captain America cassettes. Featuring John Byrne (r).

# MARVEL® TOP TEN

A listener writes, "Dear Casey, What comic has been at #1 the longest?" Well, that would have to be the X-MEN, which just entered its twelfth straight month in the #1 spot. Coming in at #2 this month is the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, which jumped up two notches from last month. How long can X-MEN hold on to #1? Keep posted! The following is a list of the ten best-selling Marvel titles for the month of November in the direct sales market. This list was compiled by our Vice President/Direct Sales, **Carol Kalish**, with a tremendous amount of assistance by **Paul Curtis**:

**1—X-MEN #257**
**2—AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #328**
**3—WOLVERINE #20**
**4—X-FACTOR #50**
**5—EXCALIBUR #18**
**6—PUNISHER WAR JOURNAL #14**
**7—PUNISHER #297**
**8—WHAT IF . . . ? #9**
**9—AVENGERS WEST COAST #548**
**10—AVENGERS #313**

So you've got a complete set of the OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE (like any true Marvelite). And you want to find a way to make this handy reference guide even easier to use. Well, leave it to good ol' MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE to come through once again!

We've come up with a handy labeling system, so you can tell exactly which letters of the alphabet are covered in each book, without having to take the books off your shelf!

Simply cut out the convenient labels at the bottom of the page. Or, if you don't want to cut up your comic, make a photocopy of the page. Then glue the labels onto the spines of your copies of the OFFICIAL HANDBOOK. Put them right up on top, where they'll be easy to see.

Then put the books back on your shelf. Now you can tell, at a glance, which heroes can be found in which volume. Pretty wild, huh? Just doing our part to make your comic reading as pleasurable as possible

| | |
|---|---|
| A–<br>Ci | Stin–<br>Wen |
| Cl–<br>Gae | Wer–<br>Z |
| Gal–<br>Kan | D: A–<br>Dorc |
| Kar–<br>Mr. Fa | D: Dorm–<br>Pa |
| Mr. Fe–<br>Q | D: Ph–<br>Z |
| R–<br>Stil | |

# MARK'S REMARKS

Last month I went on about Marvel's foreign language editions just so you'd all have some background about what Marvel and I were doing at the Frankfurt Book Fair. Now I can finally get to the Book Fair experience itself, at least from this guy's point of view.

The Frankfurt Buchmesse (as it's called there) is perhaps the world's largest book publishers' convention. Publishers from all over the world, publishing everything from paperbacks to art books to cook books to encyclopedias to comic books (gasp!) get together each October to conduct business and exhibit their most recent wares. What sort of business is discussed? Well, foreign licensing, for the most part. Negotiating the rights to publish other people's copyrighted properties in other editions, usually in other languages. There may well be foreign distribution rights discussed as well.

Each publisher has a booth to decorate with its product line, and the bigger the publisher the more space it contracts for. Compared to some of the biggies, Marvel had a pretty small space. On the plus side, though, thanks to our larger than life display figures of **Wolverine**, **Cap**, and **Spider-Man** (to name but a few), and our free comic rack, our booth was considerably more eye-catching than most and certainly very popular with the browsers. Another advantage of a compact space is that we could set up, inventory, and take down the whole thing in but a matter of hours. This year the Marvel booth was staffed by **Fran Burke** from International Licensing, **Helen Carter** from Marvel U.K.'s International Licensing, publisher **Mike Hobson**, Marvel V.P. **Joe Calamari**, International Licensing head **Michele Gagnon**, **Bob Riscica**, from McAndrews and Forbes Holdings Inc., Marvel's new parent company and oh yes, myself. While the others were engaged in meetings and negotiations from 10 to 6 for the better part of the week, my job was mostly to mind the store, keeping free comics in our spinner-rack, telling people the display figures were not for sale, and helping conduct the daily raffle for a free MARVEL MASTERWORKS signed by **Stan Lee**. Okay, I did bring all of my vast knowledge and expertise to bear when asked an occasional question by Marvel's foreign licensees about our upcoming domestic publishing program, which was technically why I was brought along. (Hey, you don't have to be Marvel's Executive Editor to be qualified to stock a comics rack—but it doesn't hurt.)

It's hard to describe just how big the Book Fair is. If you've ever been to the San Diego Comics Convention, which is the largest comics convention I've ever attended, then I can tell you that the Frankfurt Book Fair is easily ten times bigger than that. There are several huge pavilion buildings with three floors each all filled with exhibitors. And it's not just the trade that attends the Book Fair. This is one of the biggest annual events in Frankfurt, so the whole city seems to turn out. The Marvel booth had scores of school age kids coming by at all hours—some of them must have been ditching school, I'd imagine.

It was great to talk with German fans. While most of them get the German editions of our books (published by Condor Verlag), the older fans tended to collect the American editions that manage to get imported into town. Most European schoolchildren are required to learn English as a second language so I did not encounter too many people who I had trouble speaking with. Know what? Popular taste in comics in Europe is just about the same as it is here in the States. Everyone asked me what projects **Todd McFarlane**, **John Byrne**, and **Frank Miller** were working on, same as here. Most flattering, of course, was autographing copies of my work, some of which fans particularly brought to the Fair for the express purpose of having me sign. One fan told me he recognized me from my caricatures that appear atop this page (and here I was telling everyone they don't look a thing like me!). It's a very odd sensation to have your work and reputation go places you yourself have never gone. Since the American editions of our comics are a lot harder to find than the German editions, I can only figure that those familiar with my work have read it in translation. Who knows how well my stuff reads in another language?

Besides talking with various Europanzines and for the Armed Forces Network television news. One of the fanzines was a science-fiction/fantasy/horror 'zine called *Ankh* which is on its sixth issue. The other was a new 'zine totally devoted to the art of graffiti, and I was interviewed about the use and influence of graffiti in comic art. It looks like I'm going to have to learn German in order to read what I said in print. The TV interview, which went over the commercial cable channel aimed at American servicemen stationed in Frankfurt, aired while I was there but I managed to miss it. A number of folks reported to me they saw it and said I didn't disgrace myself, Marvel, or America too badly.

I also got the chance to talk and exchange views with some of my European counterparts, the editors, writers, and translators for Marvel titles. In particular, I was shown an enjoyable evening or three by Marvel's two publishers in the Scandinavian countries, Semik and Bladkompaniet. All of my Scandinavian companions were fascinatingly erudite and extremely cordial to this American. **Ans Loos**, **Henning Kure**, **Terje Nordberg**, **Dag Kolstad** and all the rest of you—if you're reading this, let's do it again sometime, huh? One of the many things I learned was that in Icelandic (the language spoken by the Vikings), new foreign words like "television" aren't just brought into the language intact, as is the case in many languages, but are translated into something equivalent, like say "radio with pictures" or some such. In this way, the Icelandic tongue remains pure. Now if that isn't interesting, what is? How many non-German comic book people does it take to put away 179 beers in four hours at a typical German pub?

To be honest, I wasn't looking forward to going to the Book Fair when **Tom DeFalco** first informed me it was proudly required of me, even though I'm of German ancestry and have never been to Europe for longer than a weekend. After all, I'm a guy who takes comfort in his routine, who likes having weekends with nothing to do so he can get caught up on his freelance. But going to Frankfurt turned out to be an incredibly positive experience for me. Not only did I get a first-hand look at the worldwide impact of Marvel comics, and not only did I have a great time spending ten days without plotting or scripting a single page, and not only did I come away with a sense that book pulishing is a noble profession to be in, and I was a part of the international publishing community. . .but I also found my creative juices so revved up that I dreamed up no less than ten new special projects for Marvel I may have never otherwise thought of. Exposed to so many other book formats and types of publications, I couldn't help but think of how Marvel might adapt some of them to its universe of characters. Five of the ten projects I have since proposed have gotten the go-ahead, but don't expect to see any of them at your favorite comic book store till late 1990 at the earliest. I'm saving the other five for after some of the first ones come to fruition.

So there I was alone at the Frankfurt airport, one hour before my flight took off for America, spending the rest of my Deutchmarks on souvenirs. And what did I find at one of the airport newsstands, but the latest issue of the German edition of CAPTAIN AMERICA, featuring my stories from issues #331 to 335 in one digest-sized edition. I bought it, and then spent much of my eight-hour trip back to New York looking up virtually every word in my German-English dictionary, trying to figure out what I wrote. —*Mark Gruenwald.*

X-TRA THE MUTANT REPORT X-TRA

VOLUME 5 "THE NEXT STEP IN NEWS EVOLUTION" NUMBER 1

# ROB LIEFELD INTERVIEW

Over the course of the last year, fans have seen the work of Rob Liefeld, one of Marvel's newest artists on X-MEN, X-FACTOR, WHAT IF, WOLVERINE SAGA, and THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN. Now, starting with issue #86, Rob will be the regular penciler on THE NEW MUTANTS.

But only a few years ago, Rob himself was a fan with dreams of becoming a professional comics artist. "I had been sending samples to both Marvel and DC in an attempt to break in," he recalls. Finally, he decided to try approaching representatives of comics companies in person at the first Wonderful World of Comics Convention in Oakland, California in 1987. "A friend of mine who was in the business asked me if I was going there, and I said, 'No, that's way up north. I won't be going to that.' Then I hung up the phone and said, 'Y'know, I'm not doing anything this weekend,' and I noticed there were several Marvel editors on the list of people who would be there. I was in my first year of college, and I was very anxious to break into comics." So he went down to the convention, though he avoided the Marvel table at first. "I was looking at this point at breaking into some of the smaller companies, because I thought Marvel was really out of my range at the time. Then I walked over and saw (Marvel executive editor) *Mark Gruenwald* sitting there, and I asked him if he had time to look at some of my samples. And he looked at them, and he paused for a second, and said he'd give me some MARVEL UNIVERSE figures to work on. So you can imagine how ecstatic I was. I'm like, "No, this isn't happening! Wow, this is Marvel!"

It was later, while he was doing the HAWK AND THE DOVE miniseries for DC, that Rob got a phone call from NEW MUTANTS editor Bob Harras. "I remember the day that he called me. I had just got up, it was 8:30 in the morning my time, and I was making some toast, and I got this phone call. The voice said, 'Hi, Rob. This is Bob Harras,' and he wanted to see if I wanted to take a shot at a fill-in or something for THE NEW MUTANTS. My response was, 'You really have to ask? Sure!' So he asked me to do some sample pages for him, and he was pleased with them. He is the editor I've been working for primarily at Marvel. I can't say enough good things about Bob. Bob showed tremendous faith in my work and that it was going to improve. He immediately gave me an X-FACTOR job to do, and that turned into an X-MEN assignment

and then I did the (1989) NEW MUTANTS ANNUAL for him." And now THE NEW MUTANTS has become Rob's regular assignment. "THE NEW MUTANTS was the book I wanted the most. I see a lot of untapped potential in this book."

The current storyline with the New Mutants in Asgard reaches its climax in the issue just before Rob's start on the series. He describes his first two issues as "a two-issue epilogue to that story. My first issue lays the groundwork for a lot of new characters and plot elements, and with issue 87 we're off to the races with brand new characters and concepts that I hope the fans respond well to."

Asked to name his favorite New Mutant, Rob says that so far. "Rusty and Skids come to me the easiest and they are easily my favorites. I see them as like updated versions of Johnny Storm and Sue Storm (of THE FANTASTIC FOUR), one has flame, and one has a shield power. Boom Boom's a lot of fun to draw. I'm still trying to get a handle on drawing Rictor and Cannonball. Warlock's a tremendous amount of fun. I like them all a lot."

He also enthuses about working with NEW MUTANTS writer Louise Simonson. "Her plots are wonderful. They are so easy to draw from. She gives you everything you need."

One of Rob's favorite Marvel characters of all is Wolverine, who starred in a recent WHAT IF he drew that was written by his friend Jim Valentino. Jim and Rob once shared a studio. "That has been my favorite work so far. Wolverine is by far my favorite character, for many different reasons. He's visually very dynamic. I like his face, the long sideburns, the pointy haircut."

Rob has turned his interest in the way characters look to the way the New Mutants dress. "The first thing I asked Bob when I got on the book was if I could redesign Sunspot's costume, because his was the only costume I really didn't like. But then I said, why not just take the whole group and revamp them? I sent in various designs for all the characters, and the ones we settled on had more of a uniform look." Each one of the New Mutants will have a differently colored uniform than the others, and each will individualize his or her uniform in other ways, as well. "I've bought several magazines and borrowed some of my sister's magazines, trying to think what kind of accessories would they put on themselves." Moreover, the uniforms can be adapted to any climate. "If the New Mutants are in the Savage Land and it's too hot, I'm going to have the sleeves and the lower pant legs zipped off. If they're in the Antarctic, I'm debating having windbreaker hoods come up out of their collars."

"With Boom Boom I laugh: this is what Madonna was wearing in 1983. Her hair's going to change. I'm thinking about ditching the bow in her hair. I like the glasses she wears. She has attitude, she likes to convey attitude, so I'm going to show that in what she's wearing. They'll all look like teenagers of the '90s."

Keeping the series looking right up-to-date is important to Rob, and he thinks it is one of the major reasons for the success of THE X-MEN. "Chris (Claremont) keeps them contemporary. They don't look like 1960s characters. They look and act like 1990s individuals. They change with the times; that's very important. I look at some other books and I go, 'This looks like a 1970s comic book.' You've got to push on." He also admires the way that on the mutant books whenever you might be getting tired of a certain storyline, "Chris and Louise are always pulling things out of their hats that make you want to stay for the ride."

Now that he is the regular artist on THE NEW MUTANTS, he feels he can develop his own style of portraying the series' characters. "You can't change somebody's hair style or draw them the way you see them when it's in the context of a fill-in. On THE NEW MUTANTS, I'm going wild. I figure the way they look will have dramatically changed by my sixth issue, because I'll be finding my niche with these characters, how to draw them best the way I see them. It's all a matter of feeling more comfortable with them."

Rob thinks another reason for THE X-MEN's continued success is that "The X-Men have always been

outlaws. Society is suspicious of them and that's always a very appealing angle." So he is pleased that Louise and Bob Harras have plans along those lines for THE NEW MUTANTS as well. "There are certain actions the New Mutants are going to take in upcoming issues that will be misconstrued by the public, and they'll be branded as criminals. There's going to be a darker aspect to this book. For a long time the characters have been very carefree. But now you're going to see the New Mutants grow up, which is what I think a lot of the fans have been waiting for. They're going to have to start making some decisions, dealing with more serious situations.

"There's a brand new character coming into the book. His name's Cable. He's a mysterious figure, and you won't be sure what to make of this guy at first. But he is eventually going to take over the team." Cable will be the New Mutants' new teacher figure. "But he's a lot more than they bargained for."

"New members are going to be joining the team. The Mutants are finally going to start getting their own Rogues' Gallery of bad guys. Their newest adversaries will be a group of mutants who are tired of the bigotry against them and are starting to take terrorist action against this sort of thing. They're a nasty group."

Asked to name the artists whose work most influenced him, Rob says that George Perez was a "huge influence" on his early work. "There was a run he did with Ralph Macchio and Mark Gruenwald for MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE with Project: Pegasus and the Serpent Crown. I loved that stuff as a kid. Someone said to me once: Everything you like in Perez is Jack Kirby. And here I am in junior high, I think I know everything, and all I can see is, hey, these guys don't draw anything alike. But now in the last three years I see it's true: the things I liked in George—not to take away from the way I liked the characters he drew—were the real old Marvel style of doing comic books: lots of gangbuster action, good characterization, and fast-paced storytelling that Kirby easily cornered the market on."

Rob's interest in the work of Jack Kirby "started about three years ago, and it's just been building and building. The stuff that hit me the hardest was his first Fantastic Four/Galactus story. That's the period I'm collecting now, his run on the FF from the late 40s to the mid-60s."

Rob also lists John Byrne as an artist who has impressed him greatly, and whose influence Rob sees in his current world. "There's a DAYS OF FUTURE PAST reprint that just came out. I remember reading that in the seventh grade and getting so excited. I've approached THE NEW MUTANTS with the mentality that I want to give it the kind of run that Chris (Claremont), John (Byrne) and Terry (Austin) gave the X-MEN.

"A few years before I became a pro, and I think it shows the strongest in my work, Art Adams just bowled me over. I saw him at a convention as he was just breaking in to do LONGSHOT, and I was just incredibly enthusiastic about his work. It just blew me away. An editor told me about a year ago that you want to draw our male characters the way every boy wants to be—very strong, heroic—and female characters who are just beautiful and gorgeous. And Art did that to a T. It was funny, when I was breaking in, people would tell me that my stuff looked like Art's, and I just didn't see it."

"Frank Miller is a huge influence. You might not see it yet, but I felt a lot of Miller as I was doing the Wolverine WHAT IF. Actually, anybody you could name has an influence on me," Rob admits.

Rob also has another project in the works: A BEAST series written by Scott Lobdell for MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS. "When I heard they were doing a BEAST series in the biweekly, I called up Terry (Kavanagh) immediately and asked if I could do it, and he was kind enough to let me do it." Though set in the present, it contains a lot of flashbacks to the Beast's early days in the X-Men. "And one of the things I like a lot is it sheds new light on Xavier. It takes a harsh look at this man who took these five kids and put them on the frontlines against the likes of Magneto and why he did what he did. His approach was there's a war coming someday soon, it could be years down the line, but you'd better get ready for it now." The story introduces the Beast's first girlfriend, and pits him against the Constrictor, the Red Ghost and his Super-Apes, and a brand new villain as well.

"It's a great feeling (being a comics pro) I feel very lucky, very privileged to be working with a company like Marvel and being able to do the projects I've been doing."

Rob promises, "I'm going to go off and do some weird stuff with THE MUTANTS: different panel layouts, different approaches to storytelling. I think fans want—again, getting back to Kirby—lots of action. That's what I'm trying to do with THE NEW MUTANTS. I could not be more excited about THE NEW MUTANTS right now, and I think the fans should give it a try. If you haven't been reading it lately, shame on you, and come back, because all new stuff is going to be going on."

*—Peter Sanderson*

# X-MEN® ANIMATED CELLS

Remember the **X-Men** animated TV pilot? Of course you do! What loyal Marvelite could forget that cartoon classic, which aired back in Fall, 1988? Well, now here's your chance to own a little piece of that apex of animated excitement.

The fine folks at Staber Graphics are offering high-quality cells from the X-Men pilot for sale. These are the original cells that were actually used in the production of the X-Men pilot.

Each cell comes matted onto a beautiful full-color background reproduction. A certificate of authenticity is also included with each cell.

The cells range in price from $50 to $150, depending on which characters appear in the cell. **Paul Burke**, president of Staber Graphics, noted that **Wolverine** cells and group shots are particularly high sellers.

Two of the X-Men cells were auctioned off at Christie's (a prestigious auction firm) on November 19. Paul said he expected these specially prepared cells to go for thousands of dollars! This is one of the few times that recent cells were allowed into the auction; usually Christie's only auctions off classic cartoon cells.

Staber is also offering a limited edition of 200 lavishly hand-painted X-Men cells, ranging in price anywhere from $100 to $400.

If you're interested in purchasing some X-Men cells, you can call Staber's 800 number for a catalog. The number is 800-346-8940. Or you can write them at Staber Graphics, 23301 Meadow Park, Redford, MI 48239.

But hurry! Those Wolverine cells are going fast! So call for your catalog today. Remember, no mutant collection is complete without an X-Men animated cell!

*—Barry Dutter*

# MARVEL TRIVIA QUIZ

Most months we examine a special topic on this page, and toss twelve trivia teasers at you to test your in-depth knowledge of some rarely-illuminated corner of the Marvel Universe. But seeing as how many of you may be reading MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE this issue for the first time (though surely not the last!) we thought we'd take a look at the overall world of Marvel Comics itself! The twelve questions below will give you a chance to prove your working knowledge of the Marvel Universe. Too hard? See the answers on page 32! Too easy? Wait till next month, wise guy!

—**Brian Nelson**

1. **Peter Parker** published his photos of his arachnid alter-ego, **Spider-Man**, in a coffee-table book entitled:
A) Webs
B) What a Tangled Web
C) Along Came a Spider
D) Bug Shots

2. What do **Iron Man** and **Professor X** have in common?
A) Both fought to keep their technology out of enemy hands
B) Both commanded super-teams that work outside the law
C) Both overcame a paralysis that confined them to wheelchairs
D) Both scored a ten in **Janet Van Dyne**'s Hunk Ratings

3. Which feminine supporting character in WOLVERINE once starred in her own monthly comic series?
A) **Tyger Tiger**
B) **Jessica Drew**
C) **Karma**
D) **Sister Salvation**

4. The **Fantastic Four**'s offices in Four Freedoms Plaza are managed by the robotic secretary named:
A) **Jessica**
B) **Michelle**
C) **Mary**
D) **Herbie**

5. Which **Power Pack** member first controlled the power to change density, but later received the power to affect gravity?
A) **Katie**
B) **Jack**
C) **Alex**
D) **Friday**

6. Which Marvel super-team boasts a member who is the offspring of someone in a different Marvel super-team?
A) the **Night Shift**
B) the **New Mutants**
C) **Excalibur**
D) the **X-Babies**

7. Which Marvel character has NOT been nominated as a candidate for President of the United States?
A) **Captain America**
B) **Dr. Strange**
C) **Destiny**
D) **Howard the Duck**

8. **Conan the Barbarian** marauds through:
A) the Hypatian Age
B) the Hyperborean Age
C) the Hyborian Age
D) the Hydraulic Age

9. Which **Avenger** was once married to a policeman?
A) the **Scarlet Witch**
B) **Mantis**
C) **Tigra**
D) the **Hulk**

10. Which of these heroes was the first Marvel character to lose his monthly series, only to return as a greater success today?
A) the **Silver Surfer**
B) **Moon Knight**
C) **Tigra**
D) the **Hulk**

11. Which shadowy character(s) is correctly matched with the series in which he (or they) first appeared?
A) the **Shadowmasters** in THE PUNISHER
B) the **Shadow-Stalker** in IRON FIST
C) the **Shroud** in WEST COAST AVENGERS
D) the **Shadow** in NIGHT NURSE

12. Which movie was adapted by Marvel Comics FIRST?
A) RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK
B) STAR WARS
C) FOR YOUR EYES ONLY
D) DR. GOLDFOOT AND THE GIRL BOMBS

# STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

Guess what, pilgrims! You know those pulse-pounding PRO-files of the Marvel Bullpen that we usually run on the Bullpen Bulletins page each month? Well, we won't be running them on the Bullpen page any more.

Instead, you'll get to see them right here, in the pages of mighty MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE, each and every month! And to kick off our first PRO-file for MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE, we thought we'd start off by going straight to the top, to the most important guy at Marvel. But he wasn't available, so we got **Stan Lee** instead!

(Just kidding, Stan! You know we love you!) So remember, you can look forward to seeing a new Bullpenner PRO-filed each month. But for now, let's start the ball rolling with Stan the Man.

## PRO-FILE #1

Editor on: Probation! Presently in exile in California.

Marvel Freelance Credits (Past): It would take a week just to list all the "A"s!

Marvel Freelance Credits (Present): A few **Silver Surfer**s and a seemingly never-ending stream of Soapboxes soon to be a major motion picture)

My Place of Birth is: New York. I carried the wampum for **Peter Minuit** when he bought the place!

People Who Knew Me in High School Thought I Was: **Stanley Martin Lieber.** You figure it out!

My Hobbies Are: Reading all the comics the Bullpen sends me.

My Pet Peeves Are: Having to read all the comics the Bullpen sends me.

My Favorite Performers Are: **Tom De Falco** and **Jim Salicrup.** Share a Comicon panel with them and you'll see what I mean.

The Last Good Book I Read Was: The Pleasure Palace. That'll score me points with my wife, **Joanie.** She wrote it!

The Last Good Movie I Saw Was: **HOWARD THE DUCK.** Okay, so **Siskel** and **Ebert** I ain't!

If They Were Making a Movie of My Life, I'd like to See my Part Played by: **George Burns** or **Tom Cruise.** I hate to be typecast!

My Oddest Habit is: Shouting "Excelsior" in the middle of a conference.

My Greatest Accomplishment Outside the Comics field is: Getting *into* the comics field!

The Reason I Got into Comics was: I misread the ad. I thought I was applying for The Improv.

The Biggest Influences on my Work are: My creditors!

The Single Work of Which I am Most Proud is: **Spider-Man.** Hey, you deserve *one* serious answer!

My Greatest Unfulfilled Ambition in the Comics Field is: To teach my computer to write without help from me.

The Worst Part of my Job is: Trying to figure out what it's supposed to be!

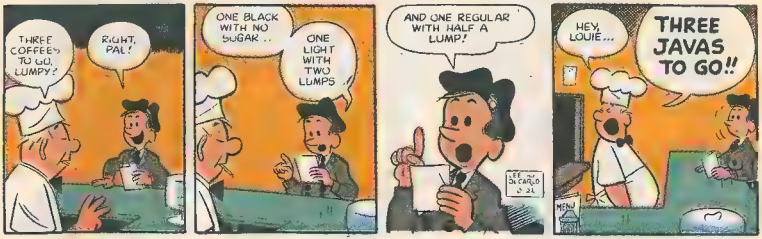
When Nobody's Looking I Like to: Oil my web-shooters, polish my adamantium claws and swing my Uru hammer!

The One Thing I Really Want the World to Know About Me is: I'm not **Irving Forbush!**—But maybe if I study hard . . .

WILLIE LUMPKIN

**STAN AND DAN'S CLASSIC COMIC STRIP FROM THE FABULOUS FIFTIES!**

© 1990 by Stan Lee and Dan DeCarlo



HELLO EVERYONE, AND WELCOME TO THE FIRST REGULARLY SCHEDULED BROADCAST OF THE FRED HEMBECK SHOW OF THE NEW DECADE, THE 1990s!
PUZZLED? DON'T BE. KNOWING THAT Marvel Age WAS BEING DISTRIBUTED TO NEWSSTANDS FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER THIS MONTH, THE BIGWIGS AT MARVEL ASKED ME, YOUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD SPIDER-MAN, TO SIT IN TO HELP EASE OUR NEW READERS THROUGH THIS DIFFICULT TRANSITION PERIOD.
THANKS, AMAZING ONE. CARE TO TELL 'EM WHO THEIR HOST IS?
WELL, I'M SURE A FAIR SHARE OF THEM ALREADY KNOW. AFTER ALL, HOW EASILY COULD THEY FORGET THE MAN WHO, JUST A FEW MONTHS BACK, TRIED TO DESTROY THE MARVEL UNIVERSE? (HAH! AS IF SUCH A THING WERE EVEN REMOTELY POSSIBLE!)
PLEASE!
I THOUGHT WE WEREN'T GOING TO TALK ABOUT THAT?! GEEZ, AM I EVER GOING TO LIVE DOWN THAT WHOLE DISAGREEABLE EXPERIENCE??
DUE TO HIS NO NONSENSE CRIME FIGHTING STYLE, ONE OF THE MOST CORRUPT ENVIRONMENTS EVER RECORDED ON FILM WAS MADE SUBSTANTIALLY CLEANER BY THE TIME THE FINAL CREDITS ROLLED...
OBOY!
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I GIVE TO YOU--
Y'KNOW, I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO MEET BAT--
MMMPHFF!?!....
..ROBOCOP.
Oh.
HIM.
eh?
I REALIZE THIS IS YOUR SHOW, SO YOU GET TO ASK THE QUESTIONS, BUT AREN'T YOU JUST A LITTLE BIT CURIOUS AS TO WHY ROBOCOP HERE IS BLACK??
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, THAT DID STRIKE ME AS A BIT ODD. PLUS, THAT EARRING LOOKS MIGHTY FAMILIAR...
WELL, LET'S JUST TAKE A PEEK UNDER THAT MASK.
CITIZEN! DESIST! --HEY, C'MON, CUT THAT OUT!
BROTHER VOODOO?!?
BUT... WHY?
WHY? ANOTHER 6 NEW BOOKS FROM MARVEL AND NOT A SINGLE ONE FOR ME? I GAVE THIS COMPANY THE BEST YEARS OF MY UNLIFE AND THIS IS THE THANKS I GET?!?..

FOLKS, I'M FRED HEMBECK, A MOSTLY REAL LIFE PERSON WHO'S BEEN A MARVEL COMICS FAN SINCE 1962. ONCE A MONTH, IN THESE VERY PAGES, I USE MY CARTOONING ABILITIES TO CROSS OVER ONTO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE COMICS PAGES AND HOST A CELEBRATION OF MARVEL'S PAST, PRESENT, BUT MOSTLY, MARVEL'S FUTURE.
AND WHAT A FUTURE IT IS, eh FRED?
YOU BETCHA, SPIDEY! WHY, WITH ALL THE SUCCESS MARVEL HAS HAD IN RECENT YEARS, YOU'D FIGURE 'EM TO JUST SIT BACK AND RELAX, WOULDN'T YOU? TO JUST REST ON THEIR LAURELS?!..
HARDY.. er, I MEAN HAROLD!
RIGHTEYO, SPIDEYO, BECAUSE FOR THE FIRST HALF OF 1990 ALONE, THE FOLKS AT MARVEL HAVE SIX NEW TITLES LINED UP! YES, YOU HEARD ME RIGHT.. SIX!! AND I'M VERY PLEASED TO SAY WE HAVE THE STAR OF THE FIRST ONE BACKSTAGE, JUST WAITING TO COME OUT!
SUMMERTIME MOVIEGOERS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY RECALL THE BIG SPLASH OUR GUEST MADE UP ON THE SILVER SCREEN NOT TOO LONG AGO...
GREETINGS, CITIZENS!
?
CLARCLARCLAR LARCLARCLARC
WELL, ROBOCOP, HOW DOES IT FEEL BEING THE STAR OF YOUR VERY OWN MARVEL COMIC?
IT FEELS GOOD, FRED.. VERY GOOD.
..uh, FRED?..
AND WORD IS THERE'LL BE A SEQUEL TO YOUR FIRST FILM OUT SOON?..
THAT IS CORRECT. ROBOCOP II..
EXCUSE ME -- FRED?..
HEY, CLEVER TITLE! WELL, WHA..
FRED!
sigh.. I DISCONNECTED THE REAL ROBOCOP AND PUT ON THIS JUMP SUIT. FIGURED IF I DID A GOOD JOB BEFORE I WAS DISCOVERED, I'D GET SOME CONSIDERATION THE NEXT TIME MARVEL PUT OUT SOME NEW BOOKS, BUT I GUESS THAT IDEA'S BEEN RUINED NOW...
I JUST WANT MY OWN SERIES -- IS THAT SO WRONG??..
MR. PUNISHER..
YOU.. SPIDER-MAN! YOU'VE GOT THREE SERIES ALL TO YOURSELF! WELL, WHAT ABOUT THE REST OF US? HUH? WHAT ABOUT THE REST OF US?.. sob..
..SURE HOPE HE'S OUTTA TOWN IN 6 MONTHS..
C'MON BUDDY, LET'S GO!
WELL, FOLKS, THAT'S ALL THE TIME WE HAVE THIS TIME -- SEE YOU AGAIN NEXT TIME!
POPULARITY DOES HAVE IT'S DOWN SIDE, BROTHER -- YOU THINK I ASKED TO BE ON THIS SHOW??..

FRED HEMBECK © 1990 by FRED HEMBECK

# HEROES FOR THE '90's "SAY WHAT?!" SWEEPSTAKES

In 1989, we launched six new series in the first six months of the year. Those titles turned out to be so successful that in 1990, we decided to do it again! So in the first six months of 1990, you can look forward to six new titanic titles from the House of Ideas!

And what, you may ask, will the new titles be? (Go ahead, ask! We won't bite.) Calm thyself, Frantic One, and all will be revealed. First up is that cyborg cop of tomorrow—ROBOCOP. Next is the return of the Avenging Son, NAMOR, the Sub-Mariner. After that the supernatural cyclist, GHOST RIDER, zooms back onto the scene. Following that are those futuristic defenders of freedom, the GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY. Next come the hottest new heroes in town, THE NEW WARRIORS. And finally we have everybody's friendly neighborhood wall-crawler, SPIDER-MAN!

But you know Mighty Marvel—we couldn't just launch these six great titles without doing something extra special. Since nobody loves a good time more than we do, we've decided to offer a special sweepstakes to welcome these new books into the Marvel Universe.

We call it the "Say What?!" Sweepstakes. And here's how it works. Your participating comics shop will be displaying a series of lobby cards over the next six months. Each lobby card contains a page of artwork from one of our six new series for 1990. But the page will have only pictures—no words!

That's where you come in! When your store hands out the bag-stuffer entry form for that title, you can enter the sweepstakes by filling in the missing dialogue and placing your entry in the store-supplied entry box. At last—your chance to put words in the mouths of your favorite Marvel heroes!

You can enter once per title! That gives you six chances of winning in your store! Who else but Mighty Marvel would give you six different ways to win?

But if you think the sweepstakes is neat, wait till you hear about the prizes! Six lucky participants have the chance to win the following:

–Autographed copies of all six premiere issues of the Heroes for the '90's titles!

–Winners will be announced at the start of the Mutant Wars in X-MEN #271, and then you'll be featured in a MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE interview! (Surely the highest honor a Marvelite can receive!)

–And best of all is the grand prize—a free dinner with the creative team of one of the Heroes of the 90's titles!! The six creative teams will be flown out to the six winning shops for a store appearance, followed by dinner with the winning entry.

Participating creators include Todd McFarlane, Alan Grant, Lee Sullivan, John Byrne, Howard Mackie, Javier Saltares, Jim Valentino, Fabian Nicieza, and Mark Bagley.

Remember, six potential winners will be chosen at random from six different comic shops in the U.S., U.K., and Canada. There will be one winning entry for each title, so not only do you get a chance to win, but your comic shop does, too!

It looks like Marvel is getting the 90's off to a great start. Six new titles. Six ways to win. Face it, True Believers, either way you can't lose!

**SO LOOK FOR THE FIRST LOBBY CARD—ROBOCOP—FOLLOWED BY FIVE MORE EXCITING CHANCES TO ENTER THE MARVEL HEROES FOR THE '90's "SAY WHAT?!" SWEEPSTAKES!!**

**OFFICIAL RULES—NO PURCHASE NECESSARY**

1. To enter the Heroes for the 90's Say What Sweepstakes, hand-print your name, address and age (if under 18, indicate parent or legal guardian's name) on the official entry form and place your entry in the receptacle provided by your participating comic book specialty shop or hand-print your name, address, entry captions, title of series and the words, Heroes for the 90's Say What Sweepstakes on a plain 3" x 5" piece of paper and mail to your participating comic book specialty shop. Each entry must be sent separately. All entries must be received by the date determined by your participating store. 2. Winners will be determined by random drawing from among all entries received. Winners will be notified by mail. Odds of winning depend on number of entries received. 3. Only one prize to individual or household. Prizes are non-transferable; substitution of prizes not permitted, no cash in lieu of prizes. Any prize won by a minor will be awarded in the name of the parent or legal guardian. 4. Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc., its parent, their affiliates and subsidiaries make no warranties, expressed or implied as to any matter whatsoever concerning the prizes, including, without limitation the implied warranties of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose. 5. Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc., its parent, their directors, offices, employees and agents shall have no responsibility for any damage, direct or otherwise, with respect to, or arising from any prize and shall bear no responsibility for any prize stolen or lost after awarded. 6. For a list of winners, mail request to: Fabian Nicieza, Marvel Entertainment Group, 387 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10016. No responsibility for lost or misdirected mail. Mutilated or illegible entries will be disqualified. 7. Sweepstakes open to all residents of the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom. Employees, IRS-listed dependants and immediate family members of Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc., its affiliates, subsidiaries, and participating comic book shops are not eligible. 8. Void where prohibited by law. All Federal, State, and local laws of the U.S. and all laws of Canada and the U.K. apply. All taxes are sole responsibility of individual winners. By entry into Sweepstakes, winners consent to full commercial use of their names and photographs without further compensation. Winners will be required to execute an affidavit of eligibility and release. 9. Prize description: Six winners will receive autographed copies of all six premiere issues of the Heroes for the 90's comic books, inclusion of the winners in an X-MEN letter column and a MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE article and dinner with the creative team, from one of the six Heroes for the 90's titles. Retail price for the comics awarded totals $7.50.

# ROBOCOP™ INTRODUCTION

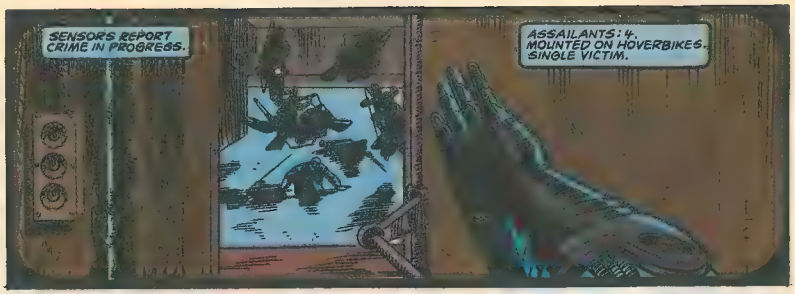
**He's the future of law-enforcement. He's part man, part machine, and all cop. He's Robocop! Based on the 1986 hit movie starring Peter Weller, ROBOCOP is an exciting new series coming your way from Marvel. The series is set in the near future, where packs of criminals roam the streets, and corporations rule the United States. Robocop is the prize creation of OCP, a huge conglomerate. Once he was Murphy, a good cop cut down in the line of duty. But OCP rebuilt Murphy as the ultimate cyborg, Robocop. Now Robo patrols the streets, programmed for only one thing: justice! Criminals, beware! Robocop is on the case!**

**We're so excited about our new 'Heroes for the 90's' titles that we just have to show them to you! Over the next six months, we'll be offering five-page previews of the 'Heroes for the 90's' titles. This month we present a sneak peek at ROBOCOP!**

# ROBOCOP™

NIGHT-TIME IN OLD DETROIT.
OH GOD! THEY'RE COMIN'! THEY'RE COMIN'!
SOMEWHERE, A CRIME IS HAPPENING.
HEY- HEY, OLD MAN, 'S LIKE THEY SAY - YA CAN RUN --
NO! KEEP AWAY FROM ME!
--BUT YA CAN'T HIDE FROM THE URBAN KURS!
YO, MAN! TELL 'IM AN' FELL 'IM!
WHAKK
AAAAHH!

ROBOCOP TM and © 1990 by Orion Pictures Corporation.


SENSORS REPORT CRIME IN PROGRESS.
ASSAILANTS: 4. MOUNTED ON HOVERBIKES. SINGLE VICTIM.

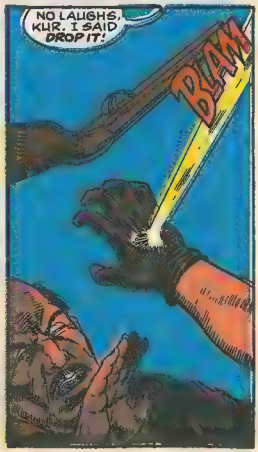
YOUR BLUE CROSS UP TO DATE, OLD MAN?
P-PLEASE, GUYS, DON'T HURT ME! I-I AIN'T GOT NOTHIN' WORTH STEALIN'!

T.D.: URBAN KUR YOUTH GANG. WANTED SEPARATELY AND COLLECTIVELY, 50-PLUS CHARGES.

WE ALREADY BEEN PAID FOR YA, BALDY!
KISS IT GOODBYE!
P-PLEASE!

PRIME DIRECTIVE: PROTECT AND SERVE THE PUBLIC TRUST. USE WHATEVER FORCE NECESSARY.

ENOUGH! DROP YOUR WEAPONS! YOU ARE UNDER ARREST.
Huh? WHO'S THE COMEDIAN--?


NO LAUGHS, KUR. I SAID DROP IT!
BLAM

TOMORROW! GRAND FINALE!
ROBOT ZONE
DETROIT STEEL VS NY SLAM
ALAN GRANT WRITER
LEE SULLIVAN PENCILER
KIM DeMULDER INKER
STEVE WHITE COLORIST
RICHARD STARKINGS LETTERER
GREGORY WRIGHT REFEREE
TOM DEFALCO PROMOTER
FRAGGIN' K! IT'S...SOME KINDA MACHINE!
PART MACHINE, CREEP. ALSO PART MAN. AND THE PART YOU DO NOT WANT TO HEAR--
ALL COP!
I DON'T CARE WHAT HE IS! THE FRAGGER OWES ME A HAND! BLOW HIM AWAY!

YOU SHOULD HAVE TAKEN THE EASY OPTION!
SPAANG
SPAANG
OUR BULLETS ARE JUST BOUNCIN' OFF HIM!
COMMIT A CRIME IN THIS CITY, YOU HAVE ME ON YOUR CASE--
HOMBAT ZONE
AGH!
ARRGH!
--AND I'LL COME DOWN ON YOU WITH THE FULL FORCE OF THE LAW!
KRAANCH
AUGGH!
COST ME PLENTY TO HIRE THOSE KURS - AND THAT MONSTER'S PULPING THEM!
IT'S GOING TO BE WORTH IT, THOUGH. DARKSTONE WILL APE FOR THIS FOOTAGE!
MAN--MACHINE-- I DON'T CARE! BACK OFF, OR BALDY STARTS BREATHIN' THROUGH HIS JUGULAR!
RANGE: 5.37 METERS, TARGET AREA SHIELDED: 92%
DON'T SHOOT! YOU'LL HIT ME--
TARGETING OPTIMUM SHOT.

AAAH!
H-H-HOLY HECK!
EVEN MORE IMPRESSIVE THAN I'D HEARD! TIME I WAS GONE!
THIS LITTLE BABY'LL TAKE CARE OF THE LAST KUR--AND THAT LOUDMOUTH POWKY!
NOW--JUST WHY WERE YOU SO SET ON KILLING--
AHH!
AAGH!
A SMART-GUN!
DIRECTIVE 3: PROTECT THE INNOCENT!
STAY IN ITS LINE OF FIRE--
TILL IT BACKS OFF TO RE-TARGET, THEN--
KABAAAM
ROBOCOP TO BASE! MEDIVAC REQUIRED, MAKKEN ALLEY. FOUR DEAD, ONE WOUNDED.
AM IN PURSUIT OF PERPETRATOR!
This is the end of our ROBOCOP preview! Be sure to check out ROBOCOP on sale soon!

# MARVEL® REVIEWERS

So—what did you think of ROBOCOP? Pretty good, huh? We thought so, too! In fact, we were so impressed with what we saw, we couldn't wait to find out the reaction of Marveldom Assembled. So we sent out advance black-and-white preview copies of the first issue to some of our Marvel Reviewers!

The Marvel Reviewers program is one we instituted as a way of finding out what you, the readers, think of our new mags. Waay back in MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #74, we asked for fans to send in their names and addresses if they were interested in becoming Marvel Reviewers.

Well, we received a torrent, a deluge, nay, a virtual *flood* of responses from the hordes of Marveldom. Never let it be said that the ranks of Marveldom do not come when called! Truly, we have the best fans of any comics company!

But enough with the stalling! Let's see what the fans had to say. So without any further ado, we now present your reviews of ROBOCOP #1.

**Dan Meyers** of Cherry Hill, N.J. thought the series got off to a good start. Dan said, "It was good. It felt like the flavor of the movie. But **Robocop** needs to get beat up more, to make him more vulnerable. They should also build up his relationship with the woman, and show his inner feelings."

**Jim Lang**, of Ontario, Canada, had high praise indeed for Robo. Said Jim, "Exciting, adventurous, and deadly; these are a few ways to describe Marvel's newest installment in a legendary line of comics, Robocop.

"There was the movie's unmistakable style throughout the whole thing. The plot was very well done, with many twists, and a good many sub-plots set for future issues. I especially enjoyed the Kombat games, and the Kombatants' battle with Robocop.

Jim continued, "The art was amazing. **Lee Sullivan**'s work was great The **Urban Kurs'** hover-bikes looked great, as did the **Nexcops.** I especially liked the difference between Old Detroit and Delta City. This comic will look great in color. All in all, I think this comic will last for quite a while."

**Tony Avon**, of Bogota, N.J., echoed Jim's assessment of the series, stating "everything is nice, especially the cover." **John McClure**, of the Bronx, N.Y., however, was not so kind. John found ROBOCOP "two-dimensional," full of "senseless violence," and having an "underdeveloped plot." John feels that artist Lee Sullivan should put more detail into his work, adding that "nothing, except the Robocop, is referenced." However, despite all of his quibbles, John labels the series "a winner. It'll make money."

**Alex Stevens,** of Nichols, GA., felt that ROBOCOP #1 was a pretty good story, but he wasn't sure it worked too well as a first issue. "It was a little vague," Alec began. "They should have gone a little more into the origin of Robocop. The writer is assuming that since Robocop is a major motion picture, that everyone knows who all the characters are."

Alec had a few other quibbles. "I couldn't get a handle on when and where it was taking place. Sometimes the characters used four-wheel vehicles, but the street gang had hover-bikes. Sometimes it seemed like the future, sometimes it seemed like tomorrow." Alec also had high praise for Lee Sullivan's art.

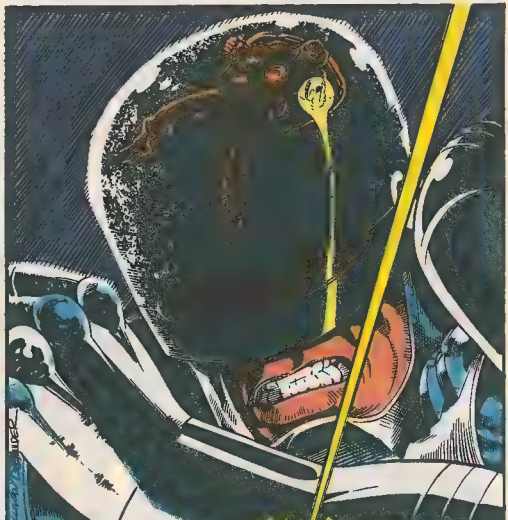
**Tom Diaz,** of Fort Wayne, Indiana, felt that ROBOCOP had a distinctly British feel. "It seemed like an issue of JUDGE DREDD. I'm not sure a British writer is the right choice for this mag. Alan Grant did put in some humor, though, and a *little* bit of human interest, and those are the two things I would emphasize in the future. The Urban Kurs have got to go, though! Those are not Robocop villains; they seem like something from THE ROAD WARRIOR! In ROBOCOP (the movie), the villains all wore suits and ties!"

**I.Q. Jones** of Buena Vista, CA. had the following comments: "I must admit I was a little disappointed with issue #1 of ROBOCOP. Although I enjoyed some of the book's dark humor, I didn't find the characters engaging and felt the art was a little stiff, particularly in the action sequences, which are crucial to a series like this."

And to end on a positive note, we'll quote from **Ed Mullins** of Stony Point, N.Y., who couldn't contain his enthusiasm. Take it away, Ed: "I thought the writing was great. I thought the penciling was great. I thought the inking was great. I thought the lettering was great. I thought the . . ." Woah! Sorry to cut you off there, Ed, but we get the idea! You liked it! You really liked it!

Overall, it looks like ROBOCOP was a big hit with our Previewers. We'd like to thank everyone who participated We'll be back again next month with a preview of GHOST RIDER! If you'd like to be a Marvel Reviewer, send your name and address on a post card to MARVEL REVIEWERS, care of MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE.

This is your chance to be a big-time critic, like **Siskel** and **Ebert!** (Or at least like those two well known comics critics, **Cecil** and **Eggbert!**)



ROBOCOP TM and © 1990 by Orion Pictures Corporation.

# THE BRITISH INVASION

There's going to be a new British Invasion next year, and this time we're ready for them.

Beginning in January, we'll be distributing some very special projects from Marvel U.K., including The DR. WHO MAGAZINE, The ABSOLUM DAAK Graphic Novel, FANTASY ZONE MAGAZINE, and STRIP MAGAZINE.

If the name **Dr. Who** is familiar to you, there's a good reason. The television show has been in syndication in the United States for some time, and the DR. WHO MAGAZINE has had limited distribution.

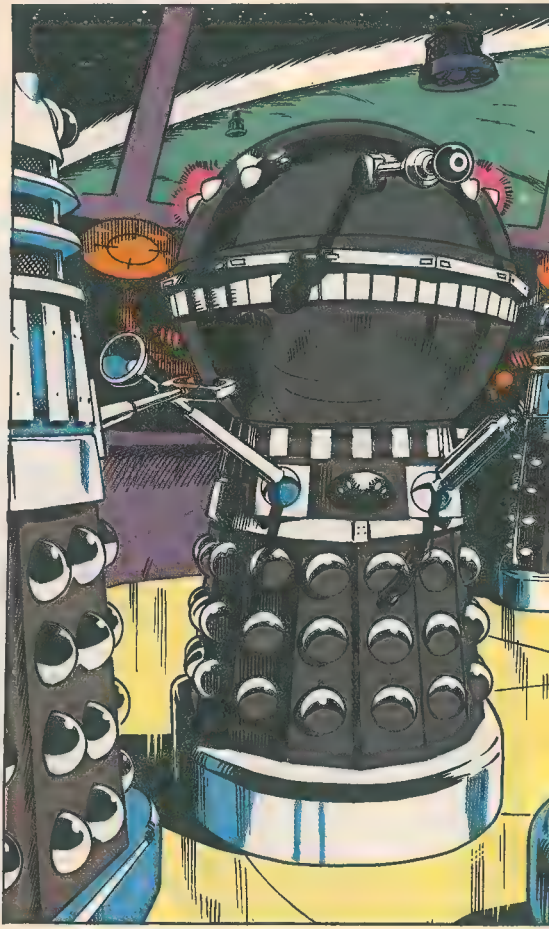
"The magazine just celebrated its 10th year of publication," said editor **John Freeman**. "And now we're really excited about getting it a larger audience in the U.S."

Issue #157 hits the stands in January, much to the delight of the millions of Dr. Who fans in this country. It will feature the first part of a two-part story by artist **John Ridgway**—"Hunger From the End of Time," and an article by current DR. WHO star, **Sophie Aldred**, on her adventures in the television series. Spitting Image will be providing a special cover.

According to Freeman, there are several reasons for DR. WHO mania in Britain and in the United States. Mostly it's the mystery—nobody knows who he is or where he came from. It is known that he is an alien, and a Time Lord, and that he has the ability to change his body shape—which proves very useful when an actor decides he is tired of the part and wants to leave the show.

John shared his thoughts on why Dr. Who has been so successful over the years. "Actor **Tom Baker** made the character very popular," said John, "But a total of seven actors have played the Doctor. People also like the element of science fiction in the DR. WHO stories. Along the way, he and the monsters on his show, have become very popular."

One race of monsters, the **Daleks**, will be featured in another Freeman project—"The ABSOLUM DAAK Graphic Novel," based on the character first made popular in the DR. WHO



Look out! Here come DR. WHO's greatest foes, the DALEKS!

MAGAZINE.

**Daak** is a criminal sentenced to kill Daleks for the rest of his life—a duty that few survive. Daak survives his first mission, but the woman he is with is killed. Daak saves her body and freezes it, hoping to revive her later, but he is only living in a dream. To avenge her death, he gathers a group of mercenaries to go after the Daleks in force.

"Daleks are little green blobs in a shell from the planet Skaro, which suffered a large nuclear war. They hate humans and anything else that doesn't look like them," said John. "They are perhaps the most popular monsters from DR. WHO. Absolum Daak is also quite popular—maybe because he cuts Daleks in half by way of a chainsaw."

Daak was created by **Steve Moore** and **Steve Alan**, and first appeared in 1979 in the "Dr. Who Magazine." The 96-page graphic novel, to be released in March, reprints those stories, along with some new material, and also features art by **Steve Dillon, Dave Lloyd** and **Lee Sullivan,** with a painted cover by Dillon.

"Daak is a character with a lot of redeeming values even though he lives a violent life," said John. "The grittiness of this story is well atuned to the character. For that reason, most of the art will be printed in black and white to match that feel."

And, if that isn't enough for the science-fiction lover, look for FANTASY ZONE—a multi-media magazine about films and videos that range from "Ghostbusters" to "James Bond" to the "Avengers" (the TV show that is).

The first issue to be distributed here, #6, will feature: An interview with **Robert Englund**—Freddie Krueger, and star of the PHANTOM OF THE OPERA movie; an interview with **Terry Gilliam** on why he is no longer directing the WATCHMAN movie; information on **Jim Henson's** new film, THE WITCHES; an interview with science-fiction writer, **Terry Pratchet**; a visit with special effects expert, **Ray Harryhausen**; and also a piece on

From the pages of STRIP comes "The Wand" by Freeman and Sharp.

super heroes on television, and news about what's coming up on TV and in the movies.

"I'm a science-fiction fan myself," said editor **Louise Cassell**," so we made sure this magazine encompassed all areas of the genre with interviews and features. We also provide an up-to-date guide about films from the past, present and future. It's a large umbrella."

STRIP magazine fits neatly under that same umbrella, as it presents fantasy art strips and stories for the adult reader.

The first issue to reach the states will include a **Marshal Law** 8-page story, other original strips, interviews and text stories. One of the new strips is GRIMM TOAD by **Ian Gibson, Alan Grant** and **John Wagner**, about a toad-like adventurer who lives in a Hobbit-like land. The piece is fully painted in the European style.

Louise says that she hopes this 48-page magazine will appeal to already existing comic fans as well as to those who simply like good artwork.

"It's quite sophisticated," she said. "We call it 'The comic grows up.'"

So, as the British Invasion draws near, Marvel U.K. hopes to reach a few of the millions of Dr. Who and fantasy fans in the United States.

"If we tap a small percentage of them," said John Freeman, "it will be fine with us."

*—Renée Witterstaetter*

# MARVEL AGE OF COMICS

## 1981 PART ONE

$1.00 236 NOV 01982
THE MARVEL COMICS GROUP PROUDLY PRESENTS:
THE 20th ANNIVERSARY OF THE FABULOUS
Fantastic Four
SPECIAL TRIPLE SIZED!
ISSUE OF THE WORLD DEBUTS!
ICONIC MAGAZINE!
CLASSIC! AN ALL-NEW NO REPRINTS! EPIC STORY!
STAN LEE AND JACK (KING) KIRBY!

1981 marked a momentous Marvel occasion—the twentieth anniversary of Marvel Comics! Though titles such as STRANGE TALES and JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY began years before, the first Marvel comic is universally recognized to be FANTASTIC FOUR #1, cover-dated November 1961. And so the November 1981 issue of the FF celebrated in a big way—with a giant-sized issue pitting the fabulous foursome against the most terrifying menace **Dr. Doom** (assisted by writer/artist **John Byrne**) could create! And with additional new material by **Stan Lee** and **Jack Kirby**, it was one of our most special anniversary issues.

Not that the rest of the year was boring for the FF! They began the year taking on the **Samurai Destroyer**, in a tale that wrote finis to the saga of the **Shogun Warriors**. **Doug Moench** and **Bill Sienkiewicz** also made room for menaces such as the **Brain Parasites**, **Ego-Spawn** (created by explorations into **Franklin Richards**' powers), **Firefrost** and the **Ebon Seeker** (created by NASA's own Voyager spacecraft)! John Byrne then signed on to take the Fantastic Four back to the basics, against **Diablo, Ego the Living Planet**, and the mysteriously powerful **L.R. "Skip" Collins**! Brewing in the background was the mystery of **Johnny Storm**'s girlfriend, **Frankie Raye** (a mystery now solvable by current readers of SILVER SURFER), while the FANTASTIC FOUR ANNUAL introduced a unique new creation, **Dragon Lord**, brought to you by **Marv Wolfman** and **Steve Ditko**. An FF giveaway issue done by **Jim Salicrup**, **Ed Hannigan**, and **Herb Trimpe** for the young Model Builders Club capped off a truly fantastic anniversary year.

Dr. Doom also figured in the anniversary issue of IRON MAN, as **Tony Stark** and Victor Von Doom battled in ancient Camelot (a battle reprised in Shellhead's most recent anniversary issue)! Marvel's foremost armored hero took on Marvel's foremost armored villain, establishing an enmity that endures to this day. Under the guidance of **David Michelinie**, **John Romita Jr.** and **Bob Layton**, Tony also sparred with the deadly **Sunturion**, the vengeance-driven **Blacklash**, and the lethal **Living Laser**. His exploits took him around the world—to Berlin in his new stealth armor to rescue **Bethany Cabe**—to Central America where a Stark plant was under siege—and to Vietnam, where he relived his first battle as Iron Man—as well as far above the world, where he donned outer space armor to prevent the Star Well from crashing into the Earth! But with friends such as **Ant-Man**, **Jim Rhodes**, and the inimitable **Mrs. Arbogast**, Iron Man remained truly invincible.

Another classic villain shaped the X-MEN's 150th issue, as powerless **Scott Summers** and his new friend, **Lee Forrester**, found themselves trapped on the island of **Magneto**! This tale was crucial in redefining the Master of Magnetism as more an anti-hero than a pure villain, starting him on the path that would, incredibly, make him one of **Charles Xavier**'s most trusted allies. Xavier had more immediate problems on his hands, though, maintaining the mutant team in the wake of **Phoenix**'s death, Scott's absence, and **Angel**'s resignation (believing he couldn't belong to any team claiming **Wolverine** as a member). **Polaris**, **Banshee**, **Iceman** and **Havok** stepped in to foil **Arcade**, while **Wolverine**, **Storm**, **Colossus**, **Nightcrawler** and **Sprite** (as **Kitty Pryde** called herself then) formed the heart of the team, taking on **Garokk**, **Emma Frost** (who switched bodies with **Storm**), and yes, Dr. Doom (or was it just a Doom robot?!). Their most significant battle, though, was against the new **Brotherhood of Evil Mutants**, in the DAYS OF FUTURE PAST two-parter recently republished in Marvel's high-quality bookshelf format. This epic thriller showed us the possible deaths of Wolverine, Storm and Colossus, as we met the adult Franklin, **Rachel**, and **Kate Pryde Rasputin**! And in the X-MEN ANNUAL, the Fantastic Four aided the merry mutants against the threat of the **Brotherhood of Badoon**.

Was there any series Dr. Doom didn't appear in that year? Well, how about STAR WARS? The series based on **George Lucas**'s space fantasy films celebrated its 50th issue with a story highlighting all its cast members—not so easy, since the recently-concluded adaptation of "The Empire Strikes Back" had left **Han Solo**, betrayed by **Lando Calrissian**, frozen in a carbonite block! **Luke Skywalker** starred in his share of stories while Han was on ice, dueling with death probes, Empire walkers, and more, while **Artoo Detoo** and **See Threepio** had their circuits full trying to escape from the death-laden Droid World. But particularly thrust into the

limelight in Han's absence was **Princess Leia**, who not only dispatched the warlord, **Sk'ar**, on a world straight out of **Edgar Rice Burroughs**, but also starred in an issue battling **Darth Vader** himself!

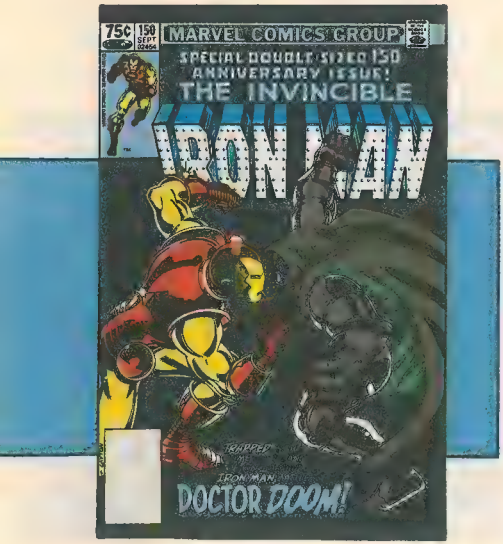
Some anniversary issues go straight to Hell—literally! After the DEFENDERS finished off the threat of the **Mandrill**, they spent the rest of the year in a multi-part story against the supernatural entity called the **Six-Fingered Hand**, a conflict that would take them face to face with **Satan**! Or was it **Mephisto**? Or was it **Satannish**? A new definition of Hell emerged from the excitement—while in the meantime, the non-team's allies and adversaries comprised a who's who of Marvel's supernatural stars, such as **Count Dracula**, **Eternity**, the **Man-Thing**, **Ghost Rider**, the **Son of Satan**, and **Devil-Slayer**! By the time the hundredth issue rolled around, the roll call included **Dr. Strange**, **Hellcat**, **Nighthawk**, **Valkyrie**, **Clea**, the **Gargoyle**, **Sub-Mariner**, and the **Silver Surfer**! In the aftermath, the team's core members—Nighthawk, Hellcat, and Valkyrie—got a chance to attend to their much-neglected private lives.

MASTER OF KUNG FU's 100th issue also pulled out all the stops, as **Shang-Chi** uncovered a plot hatched by his father, **Fu Manchu**, decades before. It was a scheme that had bedeviled **Sir Denis Nayland Smith** in his youth as well as Shang's half-sister, **Fah Lo Suee**, involving the true identity of **Jack the Ripper**, and only fast action from Shang-Chi prevented a new wave of killing from sweeping Whitechapel! After the team from MI-6 stopped the assassins of **Samisdat**, writer **Doug Moench** and artists **Mike Zeck** and **Gene Day** spun adventures bringing back some of the series' most classic antagonists: **Cat** and **Juliette**, **Pavane**, a more lethal **Carlton Velcro**, and **Razor-Fist**—who was revealed to be razor-wielding triplets! The year closed with the debut of the killer called **Sata**, and the enigmatic **Dark Angel**, whose presence on the scene would change the lives of **Melissa Greville**, **Clive Reston**, and just maybe, the free world!

Villains old and new colored the exploits of PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN, after a 50th issue that explored the mystery of aliens in one of **Spidey**'s earliest adventures! Before the year was through, Web-Head counted among his enemies **Mysterio**, the **Tinkerer** and **Toy**, the **Smuggler** (whom **Peter** actually *saved* from the Maggia assassins), **Nitro**, **Jack-o-Lantern**, **Killer Shrike** (whom **JJJ** friercely battled when **Maria Madison** was kidnapped), the **Ringer**, the **Gibbon**, the **Beetle**, and **Moonstone**! **Spider-Man**'s origin was retold from a new angle, while the careers of the **White Tiger** and (in the PETER PARKER ANNUAL) the **Man-Wolf** came to possibly permanent ends. But the web-spinner's career just got busier and busier, as "Spider-Man and His Amazing Friends" premiered that fall on Saturday morning TV!

We'll recall more anniversary issues next month, but right now we're out of room! See you in thirty!

*—Brian Nelson*




## MARVEL COMICS PRICE GUIDE

People think back issues cost an arm and a leg; but hey, with the cost of bookshelf editions, graphic novels, hardbound collections and the like, many back issues cost less than some current comics! So what did you need that extra change in your pocket for anyway? Fill out your collection with these blasts from the past, with prices quoted from our perennial source, **Robert Overstreet**'s THE COMIC BOOK PRICE GUIDE #19. But remember, this is only a guide. Actual prices may vary, and should be lower for copies in fair or poor condition.

| | CONDITION Good | Fine | Mint |
|---|---|---|---|
| **DEFENDERS** | | | |
| 91-102 | .50 | | 1.00 |
| **FANTASTIC FOUR** | | | |
| 226-231 | .60 | | 1.25 |
| 232 (1st **Byrne**), 236 (Anniversary) | .50 | 1.50 | 3.00 |
| 233-235, 237 | .40 | 1.20 | 2.40 |
| ANNUAL 16 | .35 | 1.00 | 2.00 |
| GIVEAWAY, YOUNG MODEL BUILDERS CLUB | .25 | .80 | 1.60 |
| **IRON MAN** | | | |
| 142-149 | .25 | .75 | 1.50 |
| 150 (**Dr. Doom**) | .30 | .85 | 1.70 |
| 151-152 | | .60 | 1.20 |
| **MASTER OF KUNG FU** | | | |
| 96-99, 101-107 | | .30 | .60 |
| 100 (double-size) | | .60 | 1.20 |
| **PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN** | | | |
| 50-57, 59 | .35 | 1.00 | 2.00 |
| 58 (Byrne art) | .50 | 1.50 | 3.00 |
| 60 (double-size; origin retold) | .35 | 1.05 | 2.10 |
| 61, ANNUAL 3 (last **Man-Wolf**) | .25 | .75 | 1.50 |
| **STAR WARS** | | | |
| 43-44 (EMPIRE STRIKES BACK adapted) | .35 | 1.00 | 2.00 |
| 45-54 | | .50 | 1.00 |
| **X-MEN** | | | |
| 141 (intro future **X-Men**) | 1.70 | 5.00 | 10.00 |
| 142-143 (Byrne) | 1.00 | 3.00 | 6.00 |
| 144-150 | .85 | 2.50 | 5.00 |
| 151-152 | .60 | 1.75 | 3.50 |
| ANNUAL 5 | .70 | 2.10 | 4.25 |

# ACTS of POSTAGE!

**Send your letters to:**
**MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE, c/o Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc., 387 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016**

**Attention correspondents:**
**All letters to be considered for publication must include your name and address though we will withhold that info by request!**

**This month's letter column title is a senses-shattering crossover with our recent Acts of Vengeance storyline! The title comes to us from Tom Cunningham of Winlock, WA, and in the spirit of Acts of Vengeance, we've decided that this month, we'll answer the mail sent to THE X-MEN, the X-MEN letter column will answer mail for HEATHCLIFF, and so on.**

**No, no, just kidding. We're going to handle the same mail we do every month—the massive backlog of letters that were sent to NIGHT NURSE ten years ago!**

**Oh, and before we get too carried away, we want to remind everyone that we still need a brand new title for this column every single month. So get cracking! If we use one of your ideas, we'll even plaster your name all over this space. And when you think about it, that's really the most heinous vengeance of all!**

Dear Marvel,

I was looking through my comics about a month ago, opening up comics by **John Byrne.** I had two open when my dad came in. He told me that the art in one looked terrible and the other was excellent. I looked at both of them and noticed the same thing.

I figured Mr. Byrne was getting old and lazy, but then I looked at the names of the inkers. The good one was **Terry Austin.** I looked through other comics inked by Austin, and they are excellent too! I have not seen him doing anything new, though. My friend told me he is writing. If this is true, what is he doing? Does he have plans to do any more inking?

Josh Carrick
2 Great Oaks Rd.
New Hope, PA 18938

**We've gotta congratulate you on your taste, Josh; Terry is indeed one of the most talented inkers in comics. But he's also a man of many talents, and, a short time ago, cut down on his inking assignments to concentrate on writing instead—primarily CLOAK AND DAGGER. But now Terry has put aside his typewriter and picked up his brush once again to return to his place as one of fandom's favorite inkers. Terry's award-winning inks will soon be gracing the covers and pages of many of your favorite Marvel mags. You can read all about Terry's new projects in upcoming issues of MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE.**

Dear MARVEL AGEd,

I am writing about a subject which you have no doubt heard a lot about recently: The non-yellow Letter of the Month in MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #83. I felt it my duty to tell you what really happened in the matter, as only people with my mental insight could detect the evil tampering present within the Marvel publishing company.

As MARVEL AGE is a mainstay in the Marvel Universe, it is a prime target for an Act of Vengeance, due to the enormous influence it has on readers worldwide. Your main rival in the publishing industry hired a noted villain, **Mastermind,** to subtly alter the perceptions of your readers so they would see the area as white and thus induce a mass inundation of letters with absurd explanations for this phenomenon. This, in turn, would drive you to bankruptcy, as the cost of No-Prizes and stamps would run into the millions.

This letter saves you, the company, and its millions of readers untold hardships. Undoubtedly, I have forestalled the next Great Depression. I do not ask for money, power, or a Nobe Prize. All I humbly ask for is the greatest recognition a Marvelite could ask for: A Marvel No-Prize.

Glenn Garfield
220 Ladera, #308
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

**Well, Glenn, we're pretty much saving all of our MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE-type No-Prizes for the No-Contests we've recently started running. But we're so impressed by the incredible effort that must have gone into your explanation that a shiny new No-Prize is winging your way even as we speak! See? Who needs money and power?**

Dear MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE,

I would like to know if you could bring back **Morbius,** because I like him. What type of blood disease does he have?

Edith Johnstone
10 Queensway, #2
Framingham, MA 01701

**The good doctor suffers from a pretty rare disease, Edith. It's one**

**that makes him crave blood and turned him into a living vampire! (Boy, we hate when that happens.)**

**As far as bringing him back goes, well, your wish is our command! We hope you caught his recent re-appearance in DOCTOR STRANGE #10. It just goes to show what we've always said: You can't keep a good living vampire down . . . at least not without a stake and a whole lot of garlic!**

**Yikes! The page has suddenly turned yellow! Could it be an Act of Vengeance by the dreaded Yellow Claw?!**

**Naw, don't worry. It's just the sunshiny hue that announces our LETTER OF THE MONTH each issue! As usual, we've burrowed through our mountain of mail to come up with a letter which we think will be of particular interest to Marveldom at large, and printed it against a yellow background that we conveniently had lying around.**

**This issue's Letter of the Month is a little different than most, since it's written, not by someone who reads comics, but by one of their parents!**

Dear Marvel,

As a parent of a fourteen-year-old teenager, I have to admit that his fascination with his hobby (comic books)—his favorite comics being Marvel—is a great pastime, especially with the current state our teenagers are in today, regarding drugs, sex, and their declining values. I consider myself a fairly down-to-Earth, "cool" parent, but I am still having a hard time understanding today's kids.

Comic book collecting can be expensive, but with your "Savings Certificate" subscription form, which I have enclosed, your books are highly attainable and cost-effective for us as parents. Thank you for providing such an offer; it will make a super Christmas gift.

My son, **Scott**, has over 750 comic books and as I noted before, his favorite is Marvel. He always tells me, "**Mom**, buy anything from Marvel, 'cause it's okay." He is also a super artist, and your "ugly" characters become beautiful to me because of his artistic ability and choice of colors.

I was wondering if you could possibly pass this letter on to your catalog department or anyone who could assist me in obtaining information about locating back issues of THE X-MEN, comic book conventions, publications, subscriptions, magazines, and/or a club that Scott may join to find other kids who have this common interest.

Thank you for your help in occupying my son's time in a valuable positive environment. Keep up the good work!!

Janice Lefebvre
21 Transit St.
Woonsocket, RI 02895

**And thank you for the kind words, Mrs. Lefebvre. We're glad to hear that you're so supportive of Scott, both in his interest and his talents. There are some parents out there who wouldn't be so encouraging about their children's artistic ability, and even a few who see media such as comics, television, and music as "destructive influences" that have *caused* teenagers' values to decline! All things considered, your letter is a breath of fresh air.**

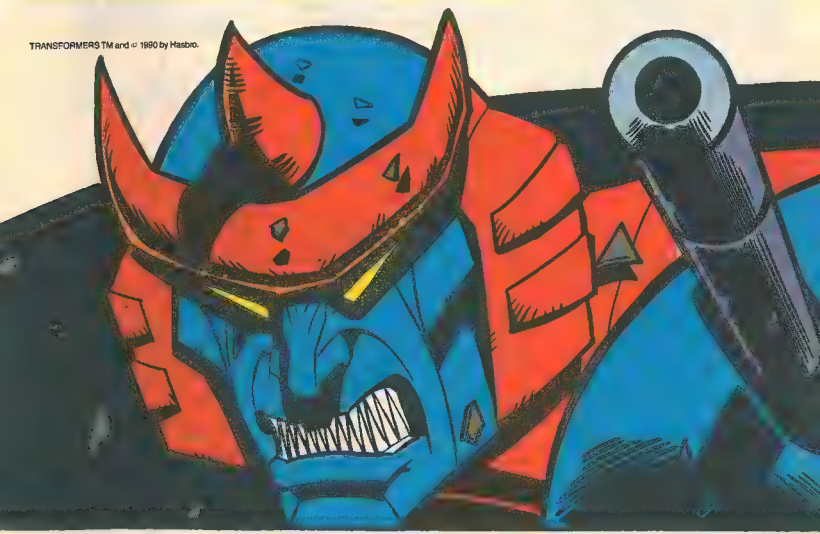
**As far as your requests go, we don't have a catalog of material for sale or information on upcoming comics conventions. But you can find ads for back issue dealers in many of our comics, and they can probably help you track down the comics you're looking for. And we also want to recommend *The Comics Buyer's Guide*, a weekly newspaper that carries convention info plus articles on upcoming comics and the people who create them. You can get a free sample copy of *CBG* by writing to:**

**The Comics Buyer's Guide**
**700 E. State St.**
**Iola, WI 54990**

**And hey, these are the folks who gave us the Favorite Publication about Comics award this year, so you know their readers have taste!**

Dear **Stan Lee**,

I am twelve years old and I have just



started collecting Marvel Comics. One of my friends just recently gave me a set of comics which are sort of old but I still like them.

I was looking through MARVEL'S GREATEST COMICS #57 when I came across an ad for a book called THE ORIGINS OF MARVEL COMICS. Can you still buy the book? I would like to buy it to learn about Marvel characters.

Carlton Hockaday
4857 Truesdale Ave.
Baltimore, MD 21206

**Sorry, Carlton, but THE ORIGINS OF MARVEL COMICS is long out of print (as are the companion books SON OF ORIGINS, BRING ON THE BAD GUYS, and THE SUPERHERO WOMEN). It's a great book, though, which reprints the origins of luminaries such as the Fantastic Four, Spider-Man, and the ever-incredible Hulk, so you might want to look for it in some of the used book stores in your neighborhood. Also, if you can't track down a copy, you can find those same stories in our hardcover MARVEL MASTERWORKS volumes. Happy hunting!**

**And that'll about do it for this month. We're going to call it quits before we're hit by yet another Act of Vengeance . . . like our designer, crazy Chris Ellopoulos, yelling at us for trying to squeeze too many words onto the page!**

**But before we go, let's all step up and meet a brand new bunch of MARVEL CORRESPONDENTS, those peppy postal patrons from points across the planet who are looking for new friends by mail. Remember, by merely writing to one of them, you can not only get a letter in return, but also an envelope and even a canceled stamp! How can you top a deal like that?**

## ANSWERS TO MARVEL TRIVIA QUIZ

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. A | 5. B | 9. C |
| 2. C | 6. C | 10. D |
| 3. B | 7. B | 11. A |
| 4. A | 8. C | 12. B |

## MARVEL® CORRESPONDENTS

**If you'd like to be listed in this space yourself, simply send your name, address, age, and the titles of your three favorite Marvel Comics to the address at the top of this letter column. You have nothing to lose but your solitude . . . and a quarter for a stamp, of course.**

**Scott Riley**
**Box 1034, RR #1**
**Trenton, Ontario**
**CANADA K8VSP4**
**Age: 14**
**Favorites: WEST COAST AVENGERS, AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, EXCALIBUR**

**Sebastian Marbury**
**PO Box 473**
**East Moriches, NY 11940**
**Age: 14**
**Favorites: X-FACTOR, PUNISHER, X-MEN**

**Sharon Crawford**
**18 Levis St.**
**Shepparton, 3630**
**Victoria, AUSTRALIA**
**Age: 20**
**Favorites: EXCALIBUR, GROO THE WANDERER, WOLFPACK**

**Paul Anshus**
**9305 Jackson Pk. Blvd.**
**Waywatusa, WI 53226**
**Age: 18**
**Favorites: X-MEN, DAREDEVIL, DOCTOR ZERO, MARSHAL LAW (Hey! No fair sneaking a fourth title in there!—"Big" Bar)**

**Richard Keeney**
**6408 Mignonette**
**Bakersfield, CA 93308**
**Age: 16**
**Favorites: IRON MAN, both PUNISHER titles, X-MEN**

**Neil Shah**
**87 Natalie Way**
**Red Bank, NJ 07701**
**Age: 13**
**Favorites: ALPHA FLIGHT, ALL X-Books, Both AVENGERS titles**

**Chris Reddy**
**341 Regal Dr.**
**Abingdon, MD 21009**
**Age: 15**
**Favorites: All Spidey titles, EXCALIBUR, THOR**

**Chris J. Holt**
**Rt. 1, Box 8-H**
**Premont, TX 78375**
**Age: 18**
**Favorites: All Mutant titles, All AVENGERS titles, All SPIDER-MAN titles (Yeesh! That adds up to about 20 titles! This is getting out of hand!—"Big" Bar)**

**Jason Armstrong**
**12 Fountains Ct.**
**Armadale**
**Western AUSTRALIA 6112**
**Age: Didn't say**
**Favorites: X-MEN, SPIDER-MAN, AVENGERS**

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# THE 1990 MARVEL AGE® CALENDAR

# JANUARY

WRITERS: CHRIS ELIOPOLOUS AND BARRY DUTTER
ARTIST: RON ZALME
COLORIST: GREGORY WRIGHT

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDA |
|---|---|---|
| ENTER: THE 90's | HAPPY NEW YEAR! RRR | 2 THE ANS IS BLACK THE HULK, A VICE-PRESID DAN QUAYLE. KARNAK THE GREA |
| HAPPY B-DAY BOB WIACEK! 7 | 8 IT'S JOHN WELLINGTON'S BIRTHDAY! FOOF! | 9 DON'T TELL M |
| BY CROM!! IT'S RUDY NEBRES' DAY OF BIRTH! 14 | IT'S MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY! 15 | 16 |
| 21 | HAPPY BIRTHDAY, HOWARD MACKIE! 22 | HEY, BUB, L WISH A HAPP B-DAY TO "CL JAN 23 |
| YESTERDAY WAS STEVE LEIALOHA'S BIRTHDAY! ALOHA! 28 | 29 | HAPPY BIRTH FRED HEMB |

WEDNESDAY
THURSDAY
FRIDAY
SATURDAY
WHAT ARE 3 POTENTIAL DISASTERS?
3
KARL THE FEAT
THE FAB
YEAH...YEAH...YEAH
5
HI! I'M THE FORGOTTEN ONE!
6
WHO WAS THAT?
I FORGOT!
YEP-- PRAYING MANTIS !!!
10
BY LENIN'S GHOST! IT'S BOB HARRAS' BIRTHDAY!
11
YESTERDAY WAS BRAD JOYCE'S BIRTHDATE!
SIGH...
12
13
MEOW
HE'S THE WORLD'S DEADLIEST TAXI DRIVER... THE INCREDIBLE HACK!
17
18
GET IN CAB OR HULK SMASH!
19
ONLY 346 SHOPPING DAYS 'TIL CHRISTMAS!
20
HEY, YOU YAHOOS! IT'S KEITH POLLARD'S B'DAY!
HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JOHN ROMITA SR.!
24
IT'S THE AGE OF AQUARIUS
25
HAPPY BIRTHDAY, SAL BUSCEMA!
26
HAPPY BIRTHDAY, FRANK MILLER!
OVER HERE, P.D!
SORRY.
30
31
FLAVORS!
LOOKING BACK ON MARVEL HISTORY-- FOR MANY YEARS, THE SUB-MARINER CARRIED THE TORCH FOR THE INVISIBLE GIRL...
C'MON, SUE. CAN'T I PUT HIM DOWN YET?
NOT IF YOU LOVE ME!
...AND I THOUGHT HE CARED!